

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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MAY 1, 2003

Former student files lawsuit against JHU

Woman says rape could have been prevented

BY MIKE SPECTOR
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A former student is seeking \$5 million in compensatory damages from Johns Hopkins University, saying the school didn't do enough to prevent her from being raped in her McCoy Hall dormitory room two years ago.

The lawsuit, filed yesterday in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, charges that the University was negligent in not providing adequate security to prevent the alleged assault.

The incident occurred early in the morning of Sept. 24, 2001, after a school-sponsored event at the 723 Club in Fells Point, according to a copy of the lawsuit obtained by the *News-Letter*. At approximately 1:30 a.m., after waiting half an hour for a University shuttle back to campus, the student accepted a ride home from four men not affiliated with the University, according to the court document. After much coax-

ing by the four men, the student allowed them to accompany her to her dorm room where three of the men repeatedly raped and sodomized her, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit claims the University was negligent because the security officer in the McCoy lobby failed to check the men's identification or to require them to sign a sign-in sheet. Such actions would have prevented the sexual assault of the then 18-year-old student, the lawsuit charges.

As of last night, University officials had not seen the lawsuit.

"We have not been legally served with the lawsuit and we haven't seen it," University spokesman Dennis O'Shea said last night.

At the time of the alleged incident, University policy allowed guests access to the residence halls if a student accompanied them, O'Shea said. Currently, residents remain free to bring guests into Wolman or McCoy Hall, and there is a voluntary sign-in sheet,

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2



Crowds cluster around the food court at Spring Fair 2003 last weekend. Craft vendors were scattered across the Upper and Lower Quads.

DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

Fair returns with new look

BY FRANCESCA C. HANSEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The brick pathways of the Upper and Lower Quads look strikingly empty after three days of the 32nd annual Spring Fair, which covered the campus last weekend.

Spring Fair 2003 saw the return of past traditions, including the Hopkins 5K and a car show on Garland Field in the Saturday morning drizzle.

Spring Fair's annual concert Friday night continued last year's hip-hop theme with Blackalicious and The Pharcyde, which performed in front of an audience of 1,200.

Even with some of the returning aspects of last year, Hopkins' renovated campus layout spurred dramatic changes to the 2003 Fair. Craft vendors were stretched across the Upper and Lower Quads, and 17 food vendors were clustered alongside Garland Hall. With the adaptations the event has made throughout the Homewood campus renovations, vendors and patrons have had mixed reactions.

Akbar Restaurant almost didn't come to Spring Fair this year, but owner Vinay Wahi says he is glad he did.

"The fair went much better than the last three years," Wahi said.

While Akbar Restaurant had contemplated not supplying the fair with its traditional curry and samosas, Spring Fair staff negotiations ultimately brought the Indian vendor back.

Wahi said he was pleased with the

new arrangement.

"People knew where the food was," he said. "People just take the food and roam around the whole campus."

After 18 years of serving the Hopkins fair, Wahi said the community has noticed.

"People ask in the restaurant, 'Are you going to be at the Johns Hopkins Spring Fair?'" he said.

Surrounded by options such as chicken-on-a-stick, kettle corn and kosher hot dogs, the development of a food court served as a magnet for the fair, said sophomore Bari Jane Braunstein.

"The food draws you in, and then

you get sidetracked," she said.

Braunstein also enjoyed Fair's new quad layout.

"It's awesome because you can lay in the grass and look at the booths and roll around in it," she said.

With approximately 80 arts and crafts vendors dispersed on the grass between the Upper and Lower Quads, this year's fair attempted to avoid the over-crowding complaints of Fair 2002, when booths were located exclusively on Garland Field, according to Fair advisor Jane Rhynier. But with the new arrangement, many Upper Quad vendors complained of isolation.

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Rootie's turns in liquor license

BY LINDSAY SAXE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A bar near campus won't be serving beer with its munchies anymore.

Confronted with allegations of under-aged drinking, witness tampering and a host of community disturbances, the owners of Rootie Kazootie's (Rootie's) voluntarily turned over their liquor license to the city of Baltimore.

The bar's owners, Vincent A. Arosema and his son Vincent A. Arosema, Jr., faced a hearing before the city liquor board, three separate charges of under aged drinking, as well as a private suit by a Loyola College student accusing them of intimidation and trespassing.

Arosema's attorney, Ronald Schwartz, called the allegations of witness tampering, "false and defamatory," referring to a story published last week in *The Baltimore Sun*.

The student's uncle and lawyer, William Balaban, told *The Sun* that people from the bar visited his nephew Christopher in his college dormitory, trying to convince him not to testify against the bar on the charges of under aged drinking.

"It was witness tampering at its worst," he told *The Sun*.

"Ultimately, what I think happened was that as a result of the pressure they were under and the close public scrutiny caused them to do something pretty stupid," said Arthur Buist, the attorney representing community members who live near the bar.

Area residents began taking

CONTINUED ON PAGE A3

Academic Advising still after pranksters

BY TERESA MATEJOVSKY
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

One month after April Fools Day, one bad joke is still ringing sour. Pranksters who sent out false e-mails to freshmen that claimed to be from the Office of Academic Advising are still at large, despite continued University investigation.

"It [the prank] was not funny a month ago, it isn't funny now, nor will it be in a month, or ever," said John Bader, assistant dean of the Office of Academic Advising. "I don't think students realize how serious and how much of an ethics violation it is [to misrepresent and impersonate an administrator]."

To date, the University has traced the hoax e-mail to a foreign ISP address. However, with the discovery of the prank's international components compounding on its vague Internet origin, the search has become "a lot more difficult than we had hoped it to be," Bader said. The origin and route of the e-mail remain unclear. There are no suspects at the moment.

He said that the prankster is most likely a Hopkins student with access to a foreign ISP address, because he did not see "any reason why anyone outside the student body would do something like this [send a campus

prank e-mail]."

Bader pledged last month that the University was "working aggressively" to find and prosecute the culprits. Currently, the University's lawyer in the General Counsel's office is investigating the case.

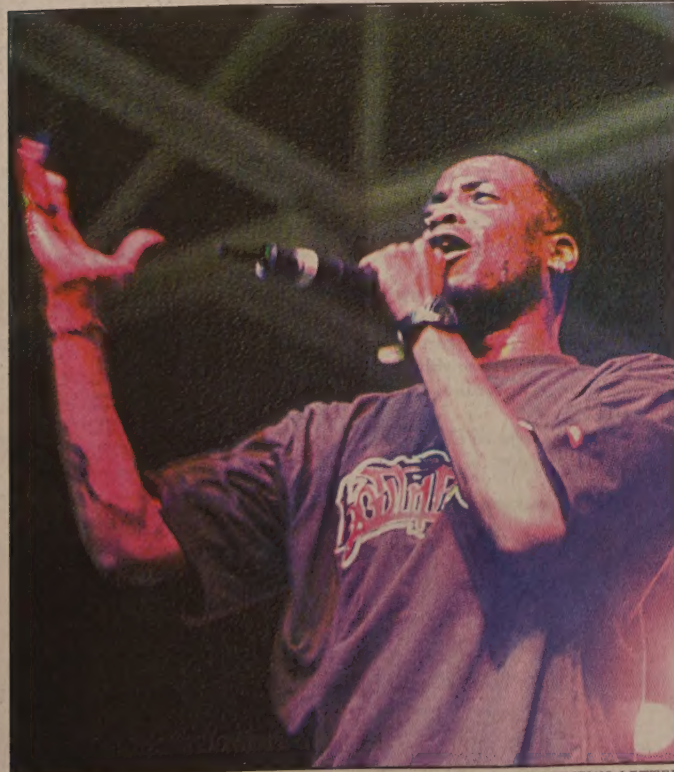
The hoax e-mails began at 9:42 p.m. April 1. Freshmen in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences were told that they had problems with their transcripts that could prevent them from receiving credit for spring semester classes. Freshman in the Whiting School of Engineering received e-mails announcing the test of a bogus new registration system. Both e-mails directed students to come to Garland Hall at 2 p.m., either to visit academic advising for course credit problems or the Registrar for the computer system test.

The Office of Academic Advising sent an e-mail informing students about the hoax April 2 at 3 p.m., after receiving several calls from concerned freshmen.

Bader maintained that the University would seek action against the pranksters when they are found. Responsible students would be brought before the Ethics Board and students would decide appropriate disciplinary action.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

Concert free after sparse ticket sales



ELEKTRA CARRAS/NEWS-LETTER

Pharcyde lead singer Imani Wilcox performs before an audience of 1,200 at Spring Fair's annual concert Friday night.

BY JESSICA VALDEZ
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Spring Fair made its concert free of charge this year after it failed to sell enough tickets to fill the Rec Center.

Only 500 tickets were sold for the concert, which featured Blackalicious and Pharcyde, according to Dan Coleman, co-chair of Spring Fair 2003.

Miscommunication between the Spring Fair committee and Ticketmaster caused the concert to be posted online too late to attract many sales, Coleman added.

"Because of the short notice on Ticketmaster, most of the sales were from on-campus," he said. "We did sell several hundred tickets on campus but it wasn't a lot so we just felt it would be a bigger draw if we just opened it up to the public."

Events are usually posted on Ticketmaster months in advance, but the Blackalicious concert was posted online only a few weeks before the event.

"That kind of hurt some of the ticket sales," Coleman said.

Although Spring Fair spent about \$25,000 on the bands and \$10,000 on production costs, Spring Fair Night-

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SARS prompts unusual precautions

Virus keeps students from home

BY LIZ STEINBERG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

SARS has Yi-Tak Lai worried, but it could be worse.

Lai is a freshman public health major from Shatin, a Hong Kong suburb. Her parents fall into a high-risk group: They both work at elementary schools, high-volume public venues the government has shut down in recent weeks to help curb the deadly disease's spread.

But while her parents' schools were some of the last to be closed, neither has contracted the disease.

"So far, I'm blessed," Lai said. "I think they'll be fine ... they've already taken every single preventative measure possible. So it's fine."

Her parents ascribe to a local adage.

"If you're not scared about it, you

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4



COURTESY OF THE HOPKINS NANJING CENTER

Students prepare to leave the Nanjing center. See story on page A4.

Graduation warning to be sent

BY LIZ STEINBERG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

They acknowledge it's a long shot, but administrators are preparing for the possibility of SARS showing up as an uninvited commencement guest.

The administration is requesting that students ask guests from affected regions to monitor themselves for

symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, a highly contagious pneumonia spread by person-to-person contact. Anyone who suspects he or she might be infected should not attend commencement or other public events, the administration said.

The administration will be telling students this in an e-mail next week,

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BLUE JAYS SCHOOL TOWSON

Just when you thought our Men's Lacrosse team couldn't get any better, they go and show the Tigers who's boss. Look for an equally stellar game this weekend. Page A12

AN ORCHID OBSESSION?

A professor's love for semiconductors led him to orchids? No, this isn't a rip off of *Adaptation*. This is our own account of a Hopkins man's obsession with flowers. Page B1

MISSING IDENTITY?

Movie critics nationwide have praised *Identity*, but our Arts reporter found some things missing. Could it be that John Cusack still has some soul searching to do? Page B5

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NEWS

Vendors mixed on Fair arrangements

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"Someone didn't even know that we were up here," said Ida Pogue, owner of 9th Life in Fell's Point. While performances of the *Secret Garden* and a number of musical acts were organized to draw patrons to the upper quad, Pogue said the location and weather had not given her enough customers to break even.

"The performances were cool, but as far as a moneymaking thing, it kind of wasn't," she said.

The renovations resulting from Hopkins' Master Plan rendered the return of food to the quads impossible, Rhyner said.

"If you look at the quads, it would be hard to put food back there with all the trees planted and the benches," said Rhyner. "The brick walkways and irrigation systems of the campus can now only tolerate 'low level activity.'"

Even with a reported decrease in customers, Cliff Panken of The Book Rendez-Vous said he enjoyed his new location.

"Aesthetically, I like the space, but we're away from the vast majority of the vendors," he said.

Having attended the fair since 1997, he said 2003 has not been his best year financially, but he expressed his gratitude to the Spring Fair staff.

"They've been much more responsive and much more helpful. In past years, they acted as if they were doing us a favor," Panken said.

Although vendor evaluations won't come back until later this year, Rhyner said the comments are already being considered.

"From what I understand, some vendors have offered to assist Fair with the arrangements, not only to help choose vendors, but place them," she said.

But Rhyner stressed the large amount of planning necessary with Hopkins Security and the administration.

"If we decide to relocate vendors and make adjustments, we have to talk it through," she said.

Down on the lower quad, Polish food vendor Magdalena Rabinska and her associate enjoyed a performance late Sunday afternoon, and she said she enjoyed the fair atmosphere.

Economic losses may force this to be her last Spring Fair.

"But some festivals you do because you enjoy them," she said.

Intermingling through the lower quads and the Levering arena, booths flowed from student groups to non-profits and political organizations. Greek philanthropic booths included an Alpha Phi raffle and a Phi Mu thrift store, as well as a Sigma Chi Sigma "penny war," raising over a hundred dollars for Children's Miracle Network.

Next to the Engineering booth's table, which was littered with liquid nitrogen-shattered tennis balls, was the Green Party's table, helping to create a political environment, according to party member Thomas Kessler.

"There's a 'right to life' booth right across from here. There's all sorts of politics going on here," he said.

In the crossroads of the lower quad, a painted Bill Spink was making his rounds as a clown, creating balloon formations and hats for students.

"I've been going here for 27 years, and I still haven't gotten my diploma yet," the Housing Department manager said. "I think it's great, it just keeps you coming back."

The Beer Garden, one of the more popular Spring Fair traditions, brought a number of adults back to Hopkins.

Ambling back from the Garden's last day, junior Feroze Sidhwa was one of its many satisfied patrons.

"I stole a sign!" he said, furnishing a piece of the garden's decoration. Sidhwa, like much of the over-21

population, said he was there for the majority of all three days.

"Notice the tan," he said, extending his arm.

While the Beer Garden drew college students, alumni and even Charles Village locals, Rhyner said it was the event's family-oriented focus that improved the 2003 Fair.

"When the community can get involved, it makes it better," he said.

Despite the changes, Rhyner emphasized the achievements of the Fair this year.

"It proves again that Spring Fair Committee can pull together and make a successful weekend out of the obstacles they had to face," he said.

Security patrols Beer Garden

BY CLAIRE KOEHLER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Spring Fair's annual Beer Garden did not give Hopkins Security any problems this year.

The Beer Garden, a long-standing Hopkins tradition, is often regarded as a rowdy affair, a time when Hopkins students get down and party after a long and stressful spring semester.

Though this partying often leads to excessive drinking that can cause violence during the event, this year went smoothly for Beer Garden Security.

Every year, Hopkins Security officers patrol the grounds of Spring Fair and help prevent violent altercations.

Lt. George Kibler was specifically assigned to cover the Beer Garden. Kibler has been working with Hopkins Security for the past four years.

"The Spring Fair Beer Garden [2003] was essentially unremarkable as incidents go," he said. "In fact, this past event went very smoothly."

Friday's attendance at the Beer Garden was about average, compared to previous years. Saturday attendance was slightly below average due to the rain.

"The event was well attended for the most part with peak attendance

on Sunday because of the warmer weather," Kibler said. "I estimated the size of attendance to be about 450 by late afternoon."

Patrons at the Beer Garden "seemed to be mostly students and an older group," Kibler said.

During Spring Fairs in the past, there has been a "nice mix between neighborhood residents, families and students," Kibler said. "The cooler/wet weather may have dampened outside interest."

Kibler said a lack of underage drinkers helped keep security under control this year.

"The JHU security staff assigned to the garden is adjusted as needed and is there to intervene if any assistance is needed. We do try to keep a check on underage drinkers," Kibler said. "If they are encountered we assist with removing any students from the premises."

The Spring Fair committee hires a contractual security force, SAFE management to provide inside security for the garden.

This organization provides security for similar events throughout the state and country, particularly sporting events.

"They are frequently at Camden Yards or Raven Stadium and do a wonderful job," Kibler said.

SAFE is supported by ROTC staff to help control access by checking IDs.

"The ROTC staff worked very well, and it was a pleasure for me to work with them this year as it has been in the past," he said. There were a few small incidents though.

"There was a flight between a couple of drunk guys, just a bloody nose," said senior Jon Grassbough, an ROTC officer. "It's the first time in four years no one's ever jumped in the president's pond," even though "people drank a lot more today [Sunday]."

Ronald Mullen, director of Hopkins Security, said, "It was really a great fair other than a little rain and the beer garden security was great too — well coordinated, friendly and effective."

Concert emcee absent due to health emergency

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

-time Entertainment Chair Gregg said Spring Fair came out with enough money to put the concert on for free.

"Once we finally got out money in order on April 20, we basically realized we had enough money," he said. "It was the last minute but we decided that we were able to make it free."

But Coleman said the band's lack of its regular emcee also figured into the decision.

The Gift of Gab, the group's emcee, did not perform due to health problems, Gregg said.

"I [thought] the fans of the band might have just stayed away or might have thought \$10 was too much if they weren't a student," so the Spring Fair committee made the concert free of charge, Coleman said.

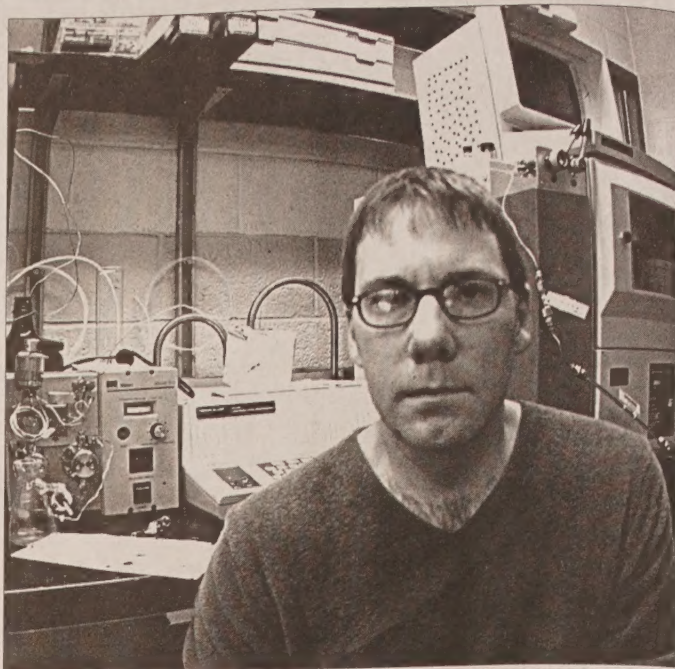
Director of Student Involvement Jeff Groden-Thomasis overseeing refunds for purchased tickets. Those who bought tickets must apply to the University for a refund.

More than 1,200 people attended the concert, ranging from community members to students from the Maryland Institute of Art (MICA).

"The response at MICA was a lot more widespread than here or at Towson," Gregg said. "More people [there] seemed to know about [the band], and the people who knew about it seemed really excited."

Although many Hopkins students were not familiar with Blackalicious, Spring Fair 2003 sought to diversify the music offered on campus.

Lectka named as Guggenheim fellow



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

Professor Thomas Lectka, who received a Guggenheim fellowship for his work in catalytic fluorine chemistry, looks forward to studying abroad.

BY ANITA BHANSALI

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Chemistry professor Thomas Lectka received a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship for his work in catalytic asymmetric fluorination reactions this April.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial offers fellowships to assist scholars and artists with research in any field. The award was established

in 1925 by United States Senator Simon Guggenheim and his wife as a memorial to their son who died April 26, 1922.

Lectka described the award as a fellowship to recognize special or extraordinary accomplishment in a person's professional career.

"If you want to go to a laboratory where you can perform specialized experiments, the fellowship stipend allows you to do that," he said.

The award recognizes the sum aggregate of a person's career accomplishments rather than a specific achievement. The foundation provides a stipend that can be used for a sabbatical or, as Lectka plans, a leave of absence.

As a synthetic organic chemist, his specialty is creating new catalytic reactions.

"The products you would get from these reactions could be used in pharmaceutical chemistry as drugs," he said.

Lectka became a professor last year and said he has had sabbatical time accumulating.

"I had a block of time in which I could undertake these studies free from outside interference," he said.

Associate and assistant professors can apply for the award, he said, "although, I think it's less likely they're going to give it to you. I did wait to be a full professor, because my chances increased, and because I had some sabbatical time."

"It's a very prestigious fellowship," said Professor John Toscano. It allows the recipient to travel abroad to expand areas of research and interact with international leaders in his particular field, according to Tascono, a fellow chemistry professor. "He's done some very creative things; I think that has a lot to do with his being awarded this fellowship. [He] advanced the field of catalytic asymmetric synthesis. This is just recognition for the high quality and creative work that Dr. Lectka has carried out over the last few years."

Lectka said the award is a great honor.

"I'm elated," said Lectka. "I'm looking forward to the fact that it gives me freedom to study specialized aspects of catalytic fluorine chemistry, in labs in Israel and Switzerland. The apparatus is going to be unusual, there's going to be a big metal reactor, lots of Teflon [because fluorine is so reactive]."

Paul Dagdigian, chair of the chemistry department, said Lectka has an interest in new methodologies for the synthesis of organic molecules.

"The main application that it's relevant to is the design of new drugs," he said.

A major current focus in drug synthesis is the development of ways to make molecules with structures appropriate for whatever drug treatment is sought: Lectka's methodology in the laboratory is to come up with ways to synthesize molecules.

Dagdigian said the award will give Lectka support for his research and the opportunity to be stimulated by visiting other laboratories in a formal way.

"We're certainly pleased for the department and for him," he said.

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Hopkins hit with lawsuit

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said Director of Security Ronald Mullen. If a student accompanies guests, security guards do not check their identification, he added.

Baltimore City Police Officer Nicole Monroe confirmed that a rape was reported to the Baltimore Police on Sept. 24, 2001 but would not confirm whether the incident was the one alleged in the lawsuit. Campus Security would not confirm yesterday that a rape was reported on that date, and there are no reported forcible sex offenses in their 2001 report.

Joanne Suder, the former student's lawyer, said the incident was reported in a timely matter to the police. Asked if the incident was reported to Johns Hopkins Security, Suder said, "Absolutely, it was."

When asked why the student waited until now to file suit, Suder

said, "The victim has three years [to file a complaint]. Many victims of violent crime choose to wait until the 'nth' hour. She did not."

The student withdrew from the University after the 2001-2002 academic year, Suder said.

Said Suder of filing the lawsuit: "The interest is for the safety of students. The worst nightmare of any student ... is to be repeatedly raped by three strangers over the course of hours."

—Staff Writer Jeremiah Crim contributed to this report.

ERRATA

There were no reported errors in the April 24th issue of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

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Student group invests in stock market

BY JENNA O'STEEN
 THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A group of Hopkins students received more than \$20,000 to invest in the stock market this year.

With an endowment of \$100,000, the Marshal L. Salant Student Investment Team is given \$20,000 each year. Hopkins alumni Marshal L. Salant, current Vice-President of Morgan Stanley, donated the money three years ago to help Hopkins students learn about finance.

The students invest thousands in the stock market, and if the students yield a profit from their investments, any funds that are above 5 percent profit will be used to fund University scholarships. The team members are not eligible to be recipients of the scholarships. Because of the slow economy, the team has not yet earned a profit to provide a scholarship.

The team is overseen by three faculty advisors, but a core group of students makes all financial decisions about investing the money. Carl Christ, one of three advisors for the team, said that the team has exceeded its original limit of six to eight students, growing to 11 students this year.

Advisors select the students in an application process each spring. Applicants must turn in a transcript, resume

and letter explaining their interest in the program. Christ said the overlap of the leaving team and the newly chosen team should lead to shared communication and advice that will make the team more successful over time.

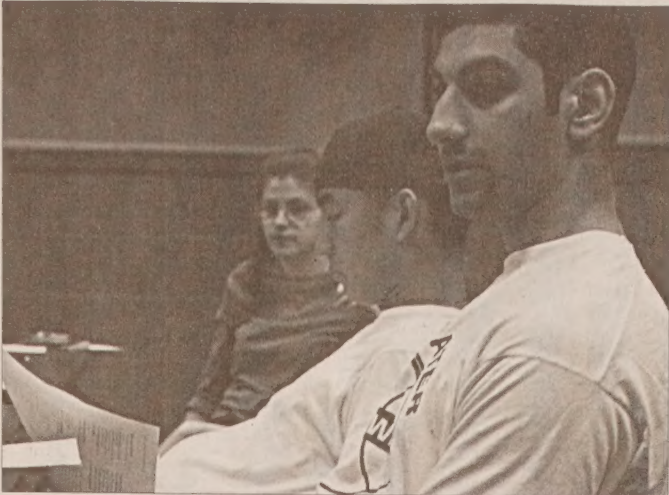
"I think it is a wonderful education for the students involved," said Christ. Junior Erin Silverman helped found the team in 2001, which now meets once a week, in addition to meeting for additional speakers and advisor meetings.

Silverman said that the team makes all decisions about what stocks to buy, although students are bound by University rules about investing.

These rules include: "No single stock can be more than 10 percent of the portfolio, no margin accounts – therefore no buying on the margin and no short selling, no derivatives, and no trading anything that isn't on a US exchange, but it can be a foreign company."

Aside from these rules, "In terms of individual stocks, [the advisors] haven't stopped us from buying anything," she said.

Two or three people meet in teams to monitor two industry sectors of the stock market. The team has its own Internet brokerage account, controlled by the Office of the Treasurer. Students cannot have direct contact



LIZ STEINBERG/NEWS-LETTER
From left to right, Erin Silverman, Aaron Ong and Kern Kapoor of the Student Investment Team discuss finances at their weekly meeting.

with the money they are investing, as the Treasurer's Office controls the password. Trading students must fill out a buy or sale form, and the trade is in turn made by an employee of the Treasurer's office. According to Silverman, this creates a slight time lag in which purchasing prices can change.

"The best thing about it is that it is real money, and if we do well then the profits will go to scholarships," said

executive committee member Karn Kampoor, '04.

Freshman Deanna Berchtenbreiter said her mom is a portfolio manager. "I thought this was the most realistic experience I could have to show me what she does ... Because Hopkins has so few business offerings, I was impressed they offered this [experience] outside of a four-credit class," she said.

Bar has history of neighborhood disruptions

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serious action against the bar, located at 2701 N. Charles St., about a year ago, Buist said. The problems, however, date back almost three years.

Fights spilling out of the bar, and disturbance of the peace were the residents' main complaints. After trying to negotiate an agreement with the owners, residents decided to go to the city liquor board to protest the bar's license.

One of those fights was caught on video, Buist said, and was presented to the board at its annual license renewal hearing last April. The protest was successful, and the owners of Rootie's were charged a fine and closed for several weekends in May and early June.

The disturbances died down while the bar was closed, but sprang up

again once it resumed a full schedule. Buist went back to the board to protest Rootie's license in the fall, with allegations that the owners were not meeting the food sales quota required by their restaurant license.

"We had good reason to believe they were surviving more on alcohol sales than on food sales," Buist said.

The board then required that Arosema hand over a full accounting of the bar's food sales. Buist said the sales statement Arosema turned over was questionable — it was accompanied by a letter from the CPA stating that he had been given the numbers by the owners and that he had not actually been involved in the accounting process.

Baltimore City Police got involved in the action against Rootie's last fall,

after they arrested 15-20 minors who were being served at the bar.

"The charges against Rootie Kazootie's were based on police reports received by this agency," said Jane M. Schroeder, a deputy on the city liquor board. "[They] turned in the license rather than face a hearing at which their license may have been revoked."

Schroeder also said the owners will have a hard time getting their license back: "They cannot turn around and come back to renew their license without facing the outstanding charges and possible revocation. Any application for a new license at the Rootie Kazootie's location would be advertised and subject to a public hearing."

Arosema could not be reached for

comment, but a recording on the bar's voicemail stated that Rootie's would be "open after 9 p.m."

While Schwartz, Arosema's attorney, could not comment on what the future of Rootie's would be, he said that the owners would likely continue operating as a restaurant.

Buist said the bar's actions this week confirm his and the community's suspicions that, "They don't even seem to be trying to sell food."

Though accusations of serving minors have plagued bars around Hopkins before, Rootie's problems aren't making other pub owners apprehensive.

"No, it doesn't affect us," said Charles Village Pub owner Edward Wilgis Ford. "We've always carded [and] we don't target underaged drinkers like they did."

Task force discusses St. Paul Street plans

BY JULIANNA FINELLI
 THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

After nearly three months of consultation with community members, local businesses and University representatives, Baltimore developers are still working out plans for the Charles Village Project, which includes the construction of a new JHU bookstore and student housing, as well as redevelopment of the 3200 block of St. Paul Street.

Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, Inc. (SBE&R), the Baltimore-based real estate development company in charge of the project, created the Charles Village Task Force in February. Composed of representatives from community and business associations, non-profits and institutions, the task force has met three times since its inception to discuss development plans.

According to Charles Reyner, task force student representative, discussions focused on the St. Paul Street development, a smaller project than proposed JHU building construction.

Plans for the west side of St. Paul Street between 33rd and 32nd Streets include ground-floor retail, approximately 40 market-rate apartments and a parking garage for 500 cars and office space. Preliminary blueprints obtained by *The News-Letter* depict plans for the east side of St. Paul Street, which include ground-floor retail area topped by residential space. The residential space will contain 190 market-rate apartments, and a parking area located directly behind the retail/residential space will include approximately 58 parking spaces.

The blueprints for the east side were revised after residents of the 3200 block of Calvert Street and the unit block of East 32nd Street expressed concerns regarding building heights and unsightly views.

The revised plans, presented by Development Director Dominic Wiker at the Charles Village Task Force meeting April 21, depicted lower elevations along Hargrove Street. In addition, the rear of the building will be tiered in order to avoid the appearance of a solid wall facing the rear yards.

According to Richard Lipscher, a

resident of East 32nd Street and member of the North Village Residents' Committee, a large concern amongst area residents is adequate parking.

"The City doesn't take into account that these houses were once single family dwellings," Lipscher said. "With Hopkins growing so fast ... as it stands, there are six to eight students in a house, each with a residential parking pass."

Lipscher fears the construction of more residential space might exacerbate the problem and hopes Hopkins will build adequate parking facilities.

Reyner said "student parking is not on the priority list" for developers.

"Added retail will create a parking crunch ... [but] no one has addressed this yet," said Reyner.

At its next meeting, scheduled for May 12, the task force will discuss the results of a traffic and parking study currently underway.

Other points raised by community members included the importance of maintaining the character and architectural look of Charles Village. Lipscher said residents have requested that designers use red brick, plant trees, install gas lamps and provide places to sit.

According to Reyner, the task force will face challenges in balancing what residents want with what students want.

"Students want more retail, while residents want a nice neighborhood ... [and] to increase the value of their homes," Reyner said.

Karen Hilton, acting director of the Baltimore Department of Planning, said effective planning requires "balancing the broader community, historical character and needs of the campus."

Lipscher said St. Paul Street's east side development is farther ahead in planning because its homeowners got together to speak with developers.

"I'm really amazed," Lipscher said. "[The developers] have been very receptive."

The east side of the 3200 block of St. Paul is currently occupied by rowhouses, which will eventually be torn down to make room for new construction. SBE&R offered rowhouse tenants the option of a six-month extension on leases, but most decided to move out, according to SBE&R Development Director Adrienne Bell.

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SAIS students leave China to escape SARS



COURTESY OF THE HOPKINS NANJING CENTER
Hopkins students leave the Nanjing campus early because of SARS.

BY LIZ STEINBERG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

With classes ending early due to fears of SARS, American co-Director Robert Daly found the cloud's sliver lining two days before students left John Hopkins University's Nanjing Center.

"As our students prepared to leave the Center at the end of their shortened semester, they gave their unused food-stuffs to us. It turned out that they had been hording dark chocolate, imported coffee, American breakfast cereal (at \$7 a box, it's a delicacy in Nanjing), cookies and Nutella spread," Daly wrote in the Hopkins-Nanjing Center's weekly report.

After an early graduation, the last students left the center Tuesday.

Nanjing lies halfway between Beijing and the southern provinces, two areas in China that have been the most heavily hit by the virus.

However, mounting concern was affecting students' studies.

"Students had more trouble concentrating on their studies after rumors spread about a possible early departure," Rob Anderson, a student at the center, said by e-mail.

Anderson spent three years in China, the last of which was at the center.

SARS keeps students from going home

Continued from Page A1
will be less susceptible to the disease, so they're actually using that philosophy," said Lai, who thinks positive thinking may raise your immune system. "It's just like a theory from the locals, but I think it might make sense."

Like many Johns Hopkins University students from East Asia, Lai has seen her family — and her summer travel plans — affected by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. With World Health Organization travel warnings and government crackdowns in effect, students from China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Vietnam are concerned not only about contracting SARS while on break but about not being permitted to return to Hopkins.

"A lot of our students, especially those from Singapore, they've been advised to stay in the U.S. by their parents," said Dr. Nicholas Arrindell, director of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

There are some 1,100 international students at the Homewood campus. The largest group — approximately 250 people — comes from mainland China.

As governments use increasingly strict measures to control the disease's spread, students worry that changing regulations might deny them a travel permit or place them in quarantine — either in their home country or in the United States.

"Will I be allowed to reenter?" Arrindell said students ask him. "That's something that we can't answer," he said.

Cathy Carroll, a junior philosophy major from Hong Kong, recently discussed the issue with her mother. She says her mother isn't concerned Carroll will catch SARS, but rather that she won't be able to get back for fall classes.

Carroll changed her travel plans last week. Instead of going home, she'll be working as an intern in London.

"Even if I do get back in [to the United States], I don't want to be in quarantine for like 10 days or something," she said.

Since she's come to JHU, Carroll has returned to Hong Kong every Christmas and summer break. This summer will be Carroll's first vacation away from home.

"I was kind of disappointed," she said.

Daniel Chang, an American citizen whose family lives in Beijing, is a freshman economics and international studies major. His parents told him around April 15 that he would not be returning home for the summer. He'll be spending the summer with a friend in Zambia instead.

Lai, from Shatin, will be attending summer classes, but she and her parents decided she'll return home for August if the situation doesn't worsen. She went home during Christmas break, but this will be the longest stretch she's been away from home.

Her parents have told her about the policy of self-imposed quarantine.

Everyone leaving Hong Kong must stay at home for 10 days, avoiding highly populated places where the risk of infection is highest. Lai is willing to comply.

But life at home is hardly normal. "I heard that they're disinfecting shopping malls every day. The only business that has gone up is Blockbuster," said Carroll.

Everyone wears masks when he or she goes out, Lai said.

"It's not mandatory, but it's for everybody's sake. If they see people without masks, they will actually get worried," she said.

"There's an air of calm," Chang said his parents tell him.

"It's kind of strange in a sense because you don't see people panicking," he said his parents tell him.

"People are just afraid of being together in large groups."

Chang believes his parents may be understating the gravity of the situation to keep him from becoming too concerned. His dad had a coworker who was quarantined last week, and his dad's office was shut down for three days.

"I really do want to go home, regardless of how the situation is. I really do want to go back and spend time with my family. It's not so much fear of the disease but fear of not knowing the whole story, because I'm not there," said Chang. "In a sense, it is rather traumatizing."

Even Lai doesn't follow the village preventative advice sometimes.

"It's something that actually touches you, and you get scared," said Lai.

Commencement guests screened

Continued from Page A1
said Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell. She met with University officials — including University spokesman Dennis O'Shea and Student Health and Wellness Center Director Alan Joffe — yesterday morning in order to hash out the details of the message.

"We don't want to alarm anyone, but I think we're just trying to strike a balance," Boswell said. "We're kind of taking an educational approach."

While some parents and students have called O'Shea's office to ask about University preparations, the e-mail is a proactive measure, O'Shea said.

"The primary point that we're going to make is we're going to ask students if they have guests coming to commencement [from affected regions to] ask those guests to monitor their health while they're here," O'Shea said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned people against nonessential travel to mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Hanoi, Vietnam. The World Health Organization lifted the Toronto travel advisory yesterday.

The measure doesn't just apply to international students: "There could very well be American citizen students who plan to have guests at commencement who either live in or have been to

SARS-infected areas," O'Shea said.

The e-mail will detail SARS symptoms based on Joffe's medical guidance.

SARS begins with a fever and, in some cases, headaches and overall discomfort, according to the CDC. After two to seven days, patients may develop a dry cough and breathing difficulties.

If guests show symptoms, "we're going to ask them not to come to the

commencement ceremonies or other public facilities," said O'Shea.

If a suspected victim is the guest of a Homewood student, he or she should call the Health and Wellness Center, said O'Shea. Health center employees have been trained to screen for symptoms.

If the Center believes a person may have SARS, he or she will be transported to Johns Hopkins Hospital, said O'Shea.

April Fool's e-mail pranksters still at large

Continued from Page A1
If a graduating senior is found to be responsible, the Ethics Board could elect to put a permanent notation on the student's transcript.

"In theory, the council could pursue the notion that this is [an official case of] fraud and seek civil or criminal prosecution," Bader said, but he added that official legal action would be slightly "farfetched" and that the Ethics Board would be sufficient management.

The University council will continue to pursue leads relating to the April Fools prank.

Regardless of the outcome of this case, Bader said that the current investigation will leave the University better prepared for similar pranks in the future.

"While we're hitting a snag in our investigation," he said. "I hope the action we have taken shows students how distasteful this action was."

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NEWS

AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. demands Iran undergo inspections

BY JONATHAN FOWLER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA — Iran must come clean about its nuclear program and submit to increased inspections by a global monitoring body, a U.S. official told an international conference Monday.

“Despite professions of transparency and peaceful intent, Iran is going down the same path of denial and deception that handicapped international inspections in North Korea and Iraq,” said John Wolf, U.S. assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation.

“We have seen the pattern of cheat and retreat before — of begrudging compromises on process but obstinacy on real disclosure,” Wolf said at the opening of a two-week meeting on the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The conference is one of the meetings that precedes a review of the 188-nation accord in 2005.

There was no immediate reaction to Wolf’s remarks from Iran. In the past, Iranian officials have said they have nothing to hide because their nuclear program is only meant to generate electricity.

The United States has accused Iran, which is building a nuclear

power plant in the southern part of the country, of having secret plans to produce nuclear weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency oversees compliance with the nonproliferation treaty. The head of the Vienna-based agency visited Iranian nuclear sites — including a uranium mine — in February and is expected to report to the agency’s board in June.

Wolf said the agency should get tough in its probes of Iran’s program.

“What is presented as ‘compliance’ may in fact not be real,” he said. “The International Atomic Energy needs to ask the hard questions and get complete answers.

“It needs to go wherever necessary to find the truth and it needs to measure each answer against Iran’s pattern to date of denial and deception,” Wolf said.

Under the nonproliferation treaty, the declared nuclear powers of the 1960s — the United States, China, France, Russia and Britain — were meant to reduce their arsenals, try to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and ensure nuclear technology was only used for peaceful purposes. However, the accord has failed to stop the growth in the number of nuclear powers.



ODD ANDERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS
A U.S. soldier looks at a painting as workers at Baghdad’s Archaeological Museum carry in some of the recovered items that had been looted following the U.S.-led invasion to the Iraqi capital city.

Stolen Iraqi artifacts recovered

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — Coalition forces have begun recovering artifacts looted from Iraqi museums, with the help of Iraqis who have been reporting people who have them, said U.S. Gen. Tommy Franks said Monday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the commander of U.S. troops in the Gulf region said over the past four days Iraqis had started informing coalition forces of the whereabouts of the artifacts.

Curators from some of the world’s major museums will meet in London on Tuesday to draft a recovery plan for Iraq’s pillaged art works, the British Museum said.

Experts from the Louvre in Paris, New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, Russia’s Hermitage and the Berlin Museums will attend the session, organized by the British Museum and the United Nations heritage organization UNESCO.

More than 100 items have been returned, including priceless manuscripts, a 7,000-year-old vase and one of the oldest recorded bronze bas-relief bulls, U.S. Central Command said.

It said one man returned a chest filled with priceless manuscripts and parchments to a nearby mosque; a local pianist returned 10 pieces including a broken statue of an Assyrian king dated to the ninth century B.C. and the bas relief.

After some negotiation, a man arrived with 46 stolen antiquities, then with eight more pieces, and finally with the vase.

“Over the last 96 hours we have had a whole lot of Iraqis contact our people up in Iraq and say actually we know where a great many of these artifacts are,” Franks said in a satellite hookup from his Gulf command post here with the annual meeting of the AP in Seattle.

“Over the past three days we have been collecting artifacts,” Franks said. “At the appropriate time we’ll place them back in the museums for the Iraqi people,” he added in a follow-up interview after the broadcast.

He told the Seattle meeting of the news cooperative that ordinary Iraqis had told coalition forces that they wanted the items in coalition hands, not with Baath party members who were responsible for managing the museums and are accused of spiriting the antiquities away.

The thefts had sparked international criticism that the United States could have done more to protect such sites.

Franks touched on a host of issues in the interview, including the hunt for weapons of mass destruction, plans to reorganize the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, and the status of Saddam Hussein and his sons.

“Today I don’t know whether Hussein and his sons are alive or dead,” Franks said. However, he added: “I have seen nothing over the last week or two that convinces me that he is alive.”

On the military presence in the region, Franks said that with the collapse of the Iraqi leadership, he suspects there will be some “reorientation and some reorganization” of U.S. forces in the Gulf.

Specifically, he said the United States no longer needs to fly aircraft

out of Turkey and Saudi Arabia to patrol the northern and southern no-fly zones over Iraq.

He said the hunt for banned weapons continues at 950 to 1,000 sites around Iraq, but said he didn’t know if about a dozen 55-gallon (208-liter) drums found Saturday near Baiji, north of Baghdad, contained any.

On the looting issue, Franks said he had expected there would be some “score settling” between various factions as well as a temptation to loot in the aftermath of the regime’s collapse.

But he said he thought U.S. forces reacted well in containing it, and that the situation was improving daily.

Thousands of items, some dating back thousands of years, were stolen from Iraq’s National Museum in Baghdad and other cultural institutions. Among the items missing are the Sacred Vase of Warka from 3200 B.C. and other treasures from the Assyrian and Sumerian civilizations.

The FBI is working with international law enforcement agencies, art collectors, auctioneers and experts to try to recover them. The U.S.-led coalition on Sunday began broadcasting messages on radio offering rewards to Iraqis to hand over antiquities.

Franks said he doesn’t expect to find an organized network of thieves as some art experts have suggested.

“We’re apt to find where an individual person decided he or she could take some of the antiquities and save them for a rainy day,” he said in the follow-up interview. “We’re going to get some more from looters — someone who knew someone who stole something. We’re getting it back that way.”

Woman shot in U. Maryland garage

BY STEPHEN MANNING
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — A man shot and gravely wounded a woman and then turned the gun on himself in a murder-suicide attempt Friday afternoon in a University of Maryland parking garage, police said.

The man, identified Friday night by police as Ki Seong Kim, 21, of Birch Tree Lane in Silver Spring, died several hours later at an area hospital.

The woman clung to life late Friday, Prince George’s County Police said. University officials could not immediately say if the two were students.

The shootings took place on the third deck of a five-story parking garage used mostly by commuter students next to the Comcast Center sports arena.

Police said the man pulled his car up behind the woman’s parked car around 12:45 p.m., blocking her in. He got out of his car and approached her.

“There may have been some sort of conversation between the two before the shooting,” said Capt. Andy Ellis, a spokesman for the Prince George’s County Police Department.

The man shot the woman as she sat in her car, and then shot himself, said Prince George’s police spokesman Andy Ellis.

“It does not appear to be an act of random violence,” Ellis said.

Police did not immediately identify either of the victims.

One person was taken away in an ambulance, while a Maryland State Police helicopter flew the other patient to a hospital.

The man died several hours after the shooting while the woman remained in “grave condition,” which Ellis defined as “worse than critical.”

Police found a handgun in the garage, which was partially roped off for about three hours as investigators surrounded a car on the third level, taking photographs. The car did not appear to be parked in a parking space.

About 3:30 p.m., tow trucks brought two cars out of the garage. One, a white Honda Civic, had blood on the driver’s seat and the door frame on the driver’s side. The window on that side appeared to have been lowered.

The garage is on the edge of campus, just off Route 193, near the 17,100-seat Comcast Center.

Mark Scott, a university employee, said he was working in a maintenance building across from the garage when he heard two shots sometime between 12:30 p.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Scott said he heard “one shot and a second or so later, I heard another one.”

University officials stressed there was no danger to students from the shootings.

“The police have assured us the campus is safe,” said President C.D. Mote.

University sophomore Xiomara Larios, 19, said she was trying to drive onto the third level of the garage when two people stopped her and told her there were two people lying on the deck ahead.

Larios said she did not see or hear anything. “It just happened so fast. I still can’t believe two people got shot,” Larios said.

Police told students who had vehicles parked on the third level that they would not be able to drive out of the garage for several hours.

Ivan Borissow, an 18-year-old freshman, said police told him he would need to wait two hours to get his car.

“It’s scary knowing something like that happens so close, in broad daylight, especially since it was so close to where my car was parked,” he said.

Man charged with stabbing a Jew

BY TOM HAYS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWYORK — A black man went on trial Monday for the third time in the fatal stabbing of a rabbinical student during the Crown Heights riots that shook New York during the summer of 1991.

It is the second time Lemrick Nelson has been tried on federal civil rights charges. An earlier conviction was thrown out on appeal and Nelson was acquitted of state murder charges.

Prosecutor Lauren Resnick told the jury that Yankel Rosenbaum was killed “not because of anything he’d done, but because of who he was — an Orthodox Jew.”

In a departure from the previous trials, new defense lawyer Richard Jasper did not deny that Nelson stabbed Rosenbaum during the unrest in the Brooklyn neighborhood shared by Orthodox Jews and Caribbean blacks.

Jasper instead told jurors that Nelson, a black 16-year-old, was swept up in an angry mob after drinking beer all day. He said prosecutors will have to prove

that race and religion played a role in the killing for them to convict Nelson of civil rights charges. The slaying of Rosenbaum “did not take place because of his religion, as far as Lemrick Nelson was concerned,” Jasper said.

The riots began on Aug. 19, 1991, hours after a Jewish driver struck two black children, killing a 7-year-old boy. Rosenbaum was stabbed as a gang of blacks shouted “Get the Jew!”

Nelson, now 27, was among those who “wanted to find a Jew to settle the score,” Resnick said. When he was arrested, police found a bloody knife in his pocket that has been linked to Rosenbaum through DNA, she said.

The defense said Nelson repeatedly denied that he intended to kill a Jew. Jasper said Nelson told a detective: “I was high and I got caught up in the excitement.”

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Morgan State student stabbed at club

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — City police investigated two slayings over the weekend, including a stabbing of a student during a fight inside a downtown nightclub.

Rasheed Tolliver, a Morgan State University student from Mount Vernon, N.Y., became involved in a fight and was fatally stabbed at Baltimore Live in the 200 block of N. Howard St. at about 1:40 a.m. on Saturday.

Tolliver was carried from the club by friends and driven to nearby Maryland General Hospital, where he was

pronounced dead in the emergency room.

A fatal shooting occurred at about 11:30 a.m. Saturday of a man as he answered a knock at the door of his home in the 800 block of Herndon Ave., in the Brooklyn neighborhood, police said. Police said they had no suspect or motive. The man, whose name was withheld, died a short time later at Maryland Shock Trauma Center.

Students manipulate college tuitions

BY STEVE GIEGERICH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scared off by a \$21,000 price tag

for tuition, room and board at Davis & Elkins College, Leslie Bennett enrolled instead at West Virginia’s more affordable Fairmont State College last fall.

Yet just one semester later, Bennett transferred to Davis & Elkins, a tiny West Virginia independent with an enrollment of 650.

The reason? Like the sticker cost on a car and the fare charged for an airline seat, the price at Davis & Elkins — and many other schools — is subject to change, and getting a break on the cost may be as simple as asking.

That’s especially true at private schools, which are interested in students who will diversify their classes and are increasingly willing to lower their tuition to get them.

Davis & Elkins, for instance, dis-

counted Bennett’s tuition in part because she is a first-generation college student. Along with work-study and state and federal grants, the money provided to Bennett is allowing her to receive a tuition-free education.

Tuition discounting differs from need-based financial aid in that it is based on factors other than a student’s ability to pay.

“Schools allocate resources to discount tuition because they want to shape their class,” explained Lucie Lapovsky, the president of Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

“They are willing to spend money to get certain kinds of students who are not likely to enroll in the numbers that they want at their published price — whether it be for diversity, whether it be for student leaders.”

D.C. metro marred by first shooting in history

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A woman was shot on a Metro rail train Saturday night, the first passenger shooting in the 27-year history of the transit system.

A man shot the woman once, just after 8 p.m. on a train headed northbound into the Congress Heights sta-

tion in Southeast Washington, Metro spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein said.

There were eight to 10 passengers in the car where the shooting occurred, Farbstein said. One of them used the emergency call box in the car to notify the driver, who called transit police. An officer met the train at the station, but the gunman got away, Farbstein said.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Blackalicious?

The Spring Fair concert on Friday night was good: hey-I-can-get-a-free-ticket good. But not \$35,000 good.

Despite \$25,000 set aside from the Spring Fair budget solely to secure nighttime entertainment, the concert failed to attract widespread interest and ended with a last minute announcement to refund tickets and make the concert free. The event became a half-hearted attempt that featured the wrong band and was further mired in poor planning and late, insufficient publicity.

While The Pharcyde and Blackalicious act pleased some students who like hip hop and rap, the genre clearly does not appeal to the majority of the student body. Less than 400 tickets were pre-sold on campus. Late publicity on Ticketmaster added few ticket sales. Between the entire local community and the 4,000 Hopkins undergraduates, only 1,200 patrons came for free to a venue that holds 1,800.

In comparison, students flocked to see – and paid to see – the Ben Folds Five and Rusted Root concerts sponsored last semester by the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP). The HOP polled students and then gave students what they

wanted. And students responded overwhelmingly.

There is no reason why Spring Fair cannot do the same. Blackalicious was secured only one month before Fair. Low student turnout indicates that students would have preferred another band. Like the HOP, Spring Fair should poll the student body to confirm students’ taste in music. Fair can then secure a larger audience by choosing a more popular band and publicizing better and earlier.

For \$25,000, Spring Fair needs to get more bang for their buck. They should either spend the money on a proven popular genre, like rock, or pursue diversity by securing several smaller bands to perform throughout the weekend. Successful concerts must reflect the music interests of the student body.

Late planning and poor publicity prevented this year’s concert from being the success it could easily have been. To prevent another half-hearted production next year, Spring Fair must tap into the pulse of student taste early, polling students, publicizing earlier and putting its budget to better use.

Turning the radio back on

It’s been a long time coming, but the students of Johns Hopkins have returned to the (virtual) airwaves. For years, radio at Hopkins, when it existed, was a weak effort compared to the radio stations of other schools. Once a vibrant part of Baltimore’s FM radio spectrum, our student radio station was gradually stolen from students and transformed into a National Public Radio affiliate because the administration believed that too much money was being spent on making students making their voice heard.

Following the death of the student-run WJHU-FM, WHSR-AM was born. A carrier-current station, WHSR had poor sound quality, especially for the community members who did not live in the few buildings where it was available. The final indignity came in 2001, when Johns Hopkins sold WJHU to new owners, who renamed it WYPR.

Given this discouraging history, it is nonetheless heartening to hear high-quality streaming audio from the new WJHU. Aside from the fact that it’s nice to see those call letters back, the new Internet-only station signals the creation of another outlet of student creativity. We look forward to working with the fledgling station, because we feel that students need as many outlets

as possible for expression.

That being said, while Internet radio is a good start, it is just a start. WJHU plays emo, indie, punk and Bhangra — genres nowhere to be found on Baltimore’s radio dial. WJHU’s leadership rightly believes that the end goal of the station is to create an FM station to serve the area. We realize that spectrum space is scarce, and things like transmitters, licenses and equipment are very expensive, but just because the goal of broadcasting is far off doesn’t mean that the administration shouldn’t see the current excitement around the station and give up now.

It would truly be a new era when General Counsel works with WJHU to get a broadcast license and the office of Alumni and Development works with DJs of decades past to raise money for equipment and maintenance. Operating a radio station is capital intensive and requires tiptoeing through a legal minefield — certainly not a job for students working part time.

The rebirth of WJHU is a chance for the administration to show that it cares about undergraduates and is committed to creating the kind of student life opportunities that are available elsewhere.

What to do with Dell?

Hopkins has no plans to convert the recently purchased Dell House into campus housing, according to a statement last week from a University spokesman.

To students at Hopkins, where some freshmen live at an inn all year because there isn’t enough space in the dorms, this announcement may have come as something of a shock.

But turning Dell House into another University apartment would have been the wrong move.

While it is true that Hopkins needs more dorm space, adding the Dell House to University-sponsored housing options wouldn’t accomplish much in the way of adding new beds. After all, much of the building is already occupied by upperclassmen.

Converting Dell House into University housing for underclassmen would help relieve the housing crunch for sophomores, but only by passing the burden on to juniors and seniors who would no longer be able to live there. So we’re happy to see that the apartment will remain as it is: a cheaper alternative to University-style housing.

But the University should take advantage of the fact that it now owns Dell House, even if this doesn’t mean making apartments available exclusively to Hopkins students.

As owner, Hopkins can do many things that would be useful for students.

For example, the University could encourage Dell House management to offer more flexible

leases, such as six-month agreements that would be ideal for students who plan to study abroad. Currently, the best solution for students who will spend the fall semester overseas is to sublet from someone who is going abroad that spring.

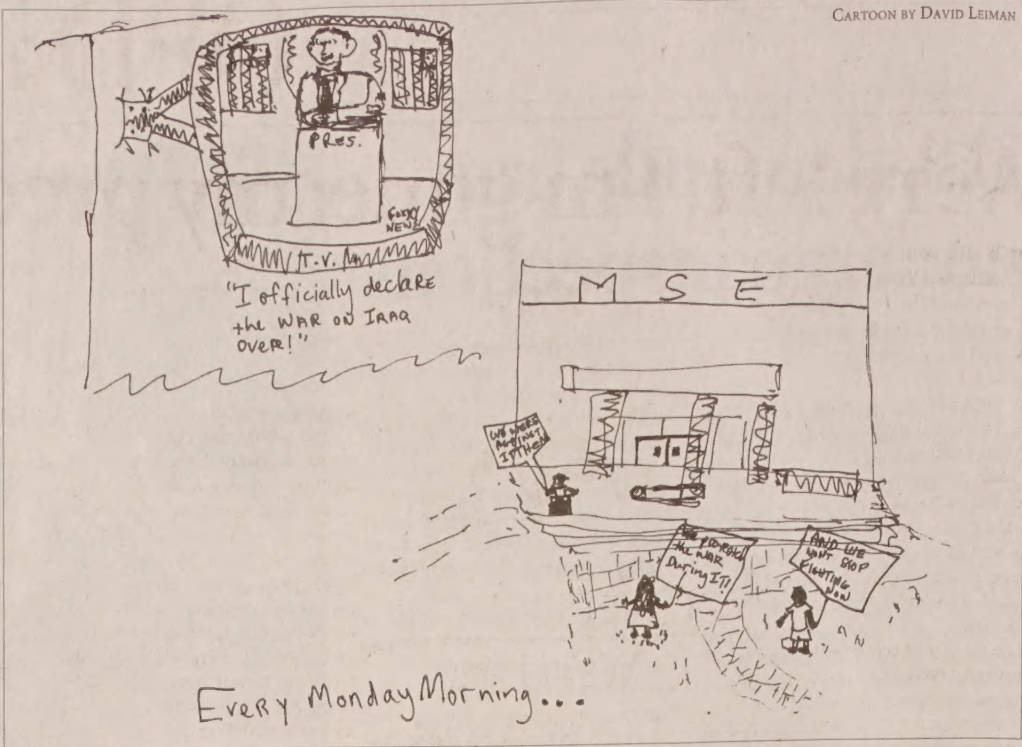
Also, a blue-light phone or some other Security presence should be added to the building. This would appease students concerned that off-campus housing locations may not be as safe as those provided by the University.

These changes would be a noticeable improvement for students living in the Dell House, without making the property part of University housing.

As Hopkins administrators address the housing problem for upperclassmen, we hope that they continue to purchase land and buildings in the area around Homewood, as they did with the Dell House. Taking over properties can ensure better security and more flexible leases, if the University plays its cards right.

What Hopkins shouldn’t do is knock things down to build more large, University apartment buildings. Students need housing options other than the expensive, whitewashed rooms that abound in the Bradford and Homewood Apartments.

Buying property and improving it will help enhance the quality of off-campus housing for juniors and seniors. But Hopkins should continue to work with existing structures — the bulldozer is not the right tool for improving housing options in Charles Village.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CUE column inaccurate

While we welcome the interest of guest columnist Ishai Mooreville in the recommendations of the Commission on Undergraduate Education as reflected in his April 24 column (“Themed dorms host problems”), it should be underscored that a key point in the column is off the mark. Nothing could be further from the objectives of CUE than the idea of grouping students by race or religion or by admitting students to a voluntary residential program through some academic test, such as some kind of arbitrary grade point average.

In proposing as one possible option that might be offered to some groups of students the idea of theme housing, that is housing together students who share an interest in a broad topic, e.g., the arts, the environment, community service, CUE was simply suggesting that we try to find some alternative ways to make residential life a more positive factor in the undergraduate experience and that we be creative in addressing another significant need: the need to strengthen the sense of community. Any program that separates students for reasons other than educational enrichment or that does not serve ultimately to create bonds is not something the Commission would support.

Let me add my thanks to the *News-Letter* for its ongoing attention to the work of the Commission.

Paula P. Burger, Chair
Commission on Undergraduate Education

Africana is important

I am writing in recognition of the progress Hopkins has made in creating

a truly well-rounded and diverse university. I say congratulations to the University for creating the new Africana Studies major and minor. But I have one question: What took so long?

It is disappointing to me that the University could carry on with the strongest programs in writing, pre-med, international relations and American Colonial History (believe it or not) while it completely lacked a proper department, even a major, to study the history of Africans and African Americans. It’s not as though our peer institutions had a similar oversight.

Now that we have the right idea, the only way Hopkins can actually achieve its goals of diversity would be to set an Africana Studies Department at the top of its priorities and allot some money from the “Knowledge for the World Campaign” for its establishment. That is the way Hopkins can really begin to put its name on the humanities map and make sure it has not done too little too late.

Saul Garlick

Dorms article right on

In response to an article concerning the introduction of “themed dorms” at Hopkins, I feel that a quote from *Good Will Hunting* best encapsulates my dis-

gust for it: “It’s a super philosophy; that way, [each student] can go through the rest of [his/her] life without ever really knowing anybody.”

Already ranked in the lower echelon among campus diversity, we would only be discouraging what college is truly about: expanding our horizons and broadening our experiences. On any given day, one can walk around campus and see the ethnic groups, the Greeks, the athletes and maybe a few of the D-level dwellers mingling together. This “cliquiness,” is a major problem at our school, and themed dorms will provide a breeding ground, which will escalate the problem.

Our motto is that “the truth shall set you free,” yet how can we learn the truth about the world if we are constantly among people exactly like us? No amount of academic education and studying will ever provide the same type of life fulfillment as meeting people different than we are and seeing what else the world has to offer. It is too easy at Hopkins to hide from everybody, crawled up in a ball at the library, counting the days before the 24 hour/day access begins and advocating this in the dormitories as well ranks among the worst decisions the school could make. So let us make new friends; let us learn from each other live the college life we all so desperately need at this school.

Zack Gurard-Levin

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday’s issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and cannot be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Letters credited only to organizations will not be printed. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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OPINIONS

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We're left, I'm gone: my predictions

I'll save you the sappy farewell address. Your time and the space on this page are both too valuable for yet another self-serving farewell with exhortations to take advantage of your time here. Anyone who thinks they have it all figured out after four years here is deluding themselves, so I won't bore you with the same old maxims. Instead, I'd like to take advantage of the fact that you won't have Charles Donefer to kick around anymore by making some predictions about the political situation in the months and years ahead.

The return of triangulation. Bill Clinton survived six years of a hostile Congress by adopting some of the opposition's more moderate proposals and taking over the center — otherwise known as triangulation. President Bush has used a different approach to maintaining control over the agenda.

By mobilizing his base with "red meat" proposals like tax cuts, funneling public money to churches and what is shaping up to be a never-ending war with the Islamic world, Bush, with the help of Karl Rove and others, has made the base so enthusiastic for and defensive of Bush that they are willing to fight tooth and nail for his proposals. Whereas triangulation appealed to centrist voters but received tepid support from Democratic Party loyalists, Bush's strategy has the full support of the entire conservative movement, which won't last. Everyone is pulling for him and working to put down opposition, from think tanks like the American Enterprise Institute, the Republican Congressional power brokers like Tom "The Hammer" DeLay (R-TX) and media outlets like *The Wall Street*



CHARLES DONEFER

WE'RE LEFT, THEY'RE WRONG

Journal and Fox News, which brings me to my second prediction.

The "liberal media" myth will die a much-deserved death. The other day, I was watching *Scarborough Country* with Joe Scarborough on MSNBC. This man, who has his own show on a cable news channel, was ranting about how the "liberal media elite" would spin this and that hot issue. Was he serious? The most popular cable news channel is Fox News, which makes no secret of its conservative bias. CNN, attacked as being liberal, at least makes an attempt at balance — keeping in mind that centrism looks liberal to a conservative, just as it looks conservative to a liberal. Lately, MSNBC has tried to improve its anemic ratings by going even farther to the right than Fox News by hiring kooks like Scarborough and the bilious and hateful Michael Savage, who called fellow MSNBC employee Ashleigh Banfield a "slut" for allegedly

being too liberal.

It's not just television, either. Clear Channel, America's largest owner of radio stations, held pro-war rallies across the country and whose stations encouraged burning or otherwise destroying Dixie Chicks albums.

The whole concept of the "liberal media" is part of the conservative persecution complex, which extends to the existence of liberals in universities, the corporate world and just about anywhere else. Never have such a privileged group felt so oppressed. As it becomes evident that we won't find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and most of the President's rationales for going to war were either weak or outright false, the utter failure of the nation's media to question any of it should prove to most people once and for all that all the whining about the "liberal media elite" is laughable.

Democrats won't be disgruntled forever. Even more than knee-jerk flag-waving and a press unwilling to ask tough questions, President Bush has benefited from the almost comic incompetence of the Democratic Party. Where are the policy alternatives? It seems as if they're languishing at Brookings and in the pages of *The American Prospect* while Daschle, Pelosi, Kerry and the rest are flailing in the wind. The joke is that the only formation into which liberals can arrange themselves is a circular firing squad; this isn't true. The New Deal Coalition included southern whites, immigrants, urban African-Americans and labor unions — groups that don't usually associate with one another. They held together for three decades, until Richard Nixon's "southern strategy" lumped southern whites with western libertarians and northeastern money.

Just because there is no dominant voice coming from the left doesn't mean that, all of a sudden, all of America favors tax cuts, the death penalty, the War on Drugs and Strom Thurmond for President in 1948. Perhaps the presidential candidate will be the uniting voice, or it may be a renegade Congressman who challenges the dormant Democratic leadership.

Democrats will learn how to exploit bigoter eruptions. Remember Bill Clinton's "bimbo eruptions?" They were self-sustaining stories that ate up news cycles and drew coverage away from issues. Fueled by bribing reporters funded by rich conservatives, such as the reformed David Brock, they didn't succeed in bringing down Clinton, but they did slow him down. Similarly, Republicans have been suffering from a series of "bigoter eruptions," starting with Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) and continuing with recent homophobic comments from Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA). In between, there were a series of smaller eruptions, including a statement by one North Carolina Congressman that favored Japanese internment during World War II and a series of anti-black comments from other southern Republicans. These stories die because major news outlets tend to ignore them after a few days at maximum. Soon, Democrats will figure out how to use their friendly media organs to keep these stories going, tearing down Republicans, bigot by bigot, until they learn how to be nice, although I don't see that happening any time soon.

Charles Donefer can be reached at cdonefer@jhnewsletter.com.

On crusade for a democratic Iraq

After Sept. 11, the world seemed turned upside down. But lest we forget, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

One needs look no further than King Henry IV's advice to his son Harry in Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 2*, "I... had a purpose now to lead out many to the Holy Land, lest rest and lying still might make them look too near unto my state. Therefore, my Harry, be it thy course to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels."

The echo of these 400 year old words can still be faintly heard. And they are enticing. When things aren't going well at home, the dying king tells his son, the citizens are becoming restless or a little too critical of domestic policy, start a war in the Middle East. King Roger of Sicily did it in 1146. Richard the Lion Heart as well. So is our president guilty, too?

No. Rather, he's a victim of circumstance. While the economy was sour and people were questioning Bush's legitimacy, the events of Sept. 11 transpired. To some, they seemed a fortuitous set of circumstances that would enable this supposed one-term to rise to unthinkable power that he would inevitably abuse.

Even if this were true, it doesn't diminish the fact that the attack on the United States necessitated our present war. Just because there were domestic problems before Sept. 11, doesn't mean that they are the reasons why we went to war. Instead, with the dramatic wake-up call delivered to America, Bush rightly saw it as something that had to do be done.

While the Crusades were fought over hundreds of years as wars of conquest to rid the infidel from the Holy Land, Operation Iraqi Freedom was designed to liberate the Iraqis and to help them, as Bush said, "build a free Iraq." As the President and Defense Secretary have stated, the time that American forces will likely spend in Iraq will only be as long as necessary, probably on the order of months.

The United States' march through the Middle East, then, bears little resemblance other than scenery to those conquests of the last millennium. In the end, it will matter little which murderous terrorist-supporting regime was targeted first or whether we find weapons of mass destruction in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the home front has suffered little as a consequence of the war, and indeed may be profiting from it. Its success has driven markets up and the knowledge that Saddam Hussein is no longer able to terrorize his neighbors is something we can all be comforted by.

The ominous tidings that many offered, claiming Iraq would merely provide convenient "distractions of war," have been tossed like jetsam. This notion was predicated on the idea that Bush and his foreign policy



DAVID LEIMAN

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE

magicians conjured the war in Iraq out of the polluted air of the Ohio Valley, that it was just another Republican parlor trick to fool the populace. But even the most obvious examples of this, tax cuts, were a product of pre-war, pre-Sept. 11 ideology.

But we all know that the war wasn't a response to an ailing economy; it was and will continue to be a reaction to the growing tide of Muslim extremism that formed the point that toppled the Towers.

What the president's domestic agenda doesn't do is inspire confidence in Republican domestic policy; on the contrary, it is neither forward thinking nor even prudent. The House's desire to drill in the ANWR would be a catastrophic loss for America. Tax cuts during a time of war are ludicrous.

But Republican foreign policy isn't. At a point in time when too many people are thirsting to strike at America, only a strongly conservative approach of pre-emptive strike can protect us and provide assurance that the United States will achieve its long-term goals of a stable Middle East that does not continuously espouse hatred of the Great Satan.

A look to the future, then, does show an ongoing presence in the Middle East. America and Syria's new-found common ground does not seem like something that will last. If the United States pursues a course of appeasement in Syria, a nation that is likely hiding many top Iraqi officials and their weapons and openly funding terror groups like Hezbollah, its credibility will once again erode.

The success of the war in Iraq bought Bush and the United States lots of maneuvering room. The threat to unsavory regimes is real. But unlike Pope Urban II's call to arms, Americans fighting overseas are not "servants of God." They are ambassadors of liberty and democracy, heralding a new reign of peace in the Middle East.

David Leiman can be reached at dleiman@jhnewsletter.com.

In government we trust, and question

America stands at a paradox of trust. We are caught between two equal halves of our nation. On the one hand, we trust government, seeking its unity and ability to change our lives. But we are also wary of our governing institutions, with their mighty power to uproot, interfere and generally get in the way.

This isn't a partisan issue, nor is it an ideological one. Conventional wisdom says that liberals trust government, and conservatives don't. That's only partially true. Liberals do trust government for their ends, such as the New Deal or industry regulation. Conservatives trust government, too, but for security and defense.

Distrust also cuts across ideological lines. Conservatives naturally distrust the government that makes too many regulations, that interferes, to varying degrees, with people's lives. Liberals see the same government they look to for help as often a bulwark of the oppressor, keeping tabs on the downtrodden to stave off reforms of the social order.

RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN

THE NEW DEALER

What's amazing to watch, though, is the extent to which distrust and misgivings are so easily forgotten. Each side is so blinded by what they want government to do that they forget the dangers.

For years, liberals trusted the federal government, and often would work to deprive states of power. This action was based on their belief that the federal government would "do the right thing." They spent much of the middle part of the century gleefully adding powers to the federal mandate. They continue to do so, recently working to charter the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board as a new regulator and watchdog of auditors. The federal government had been reformed in the 1930's, and now it could be trusted with power.

Conservatives' trust leans towards the security side. For years, they worked

to give more power to the Pentagon and the intelligence communities.

At the same time, both liberals and conservatives have remained wary of an over-arching federal government. Both sides have a love-hate relationship with it, worrying that it'll end up siding with a political opponent. Empowering the government now may mean empowering your opponents in the future.

Consider the contradiction posed by the Bush agenda. Bush tells his constituency: trust me on security. Trust that I'm using your money in your best interests. Trust that the increased powers of security will always be used to protect America.

And then he says we need a tax cut because you can handle your money better than the government.

The liberal agenda contains the same contradiction. Trust government to help, educate and uplift you and to regulate in the public interest. But be wary: that same government could come after you at any moment.

It's a curious trap. How can one use the beast without it taking over and becoming the master? In effect, we must

always be engaged in a kind of trust double-think, trusting and distrusting the government at the same time.

Healthy trust and distrust of government, therefore, should always be maintained, whether in power or out. In power, one must always remember that one could be out. The Bill of Rights is about not trusting that the next guy in power will be your friend. Americans shouldn't view those rights as nit picky things that get in the way, but as forcing the party in power to make a case.

So for those who believe that higher security requires a trade-off in civil rights and liberties, remember that it's not about letting people off. It's about keeping the security people honest. For conservatives, that stops government from later turning its greedy power towards your property.

If we're going to have a discussion about our rights in the modern era, then that's the mindset we should enter with. Government can be a tremendous force for good. But it can also be a powerful engine of evil. Against both we must guard.

Raphael Schwaber-Koren can be reached at raphaelsk@jhnewsletter.com.

May Day gives reason to celebrate

Today, May 1, is May Day, the international day for the celebration of the labor movement that has its origins here in the United States. On this date in 1886 a national strike for the eight-hour workday ended in violence and the unjust prosecution of labor leaders in Chicago, eight of whom were subsequently executed. May Day celebrates the legacy of these martyrs for economic justice and all those past who died for the rights taken for granted today.

Over a century later those rights are endangered and many new problems face workers here and abroad. A whole new class has been created in the U.S. through anti-labor practices like downsizing, outsourcing and privatization. These are the "working poor": people with jobs that do not keep them out of poverty.

In 1995 Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development got Baltimore City to enact legislation protecting city workers receiving "poverty wages." By mandating a "living wage," the city ensured that workers were paid a wage that keeps a family of four above the federally determined poverty level, adjusted yearly for cost of living increases and inflation (\$8.49 this year in Baltimore).

In 1996 professors and students started a living wage campaign at

CHRISTOPHER POWERS

MY TURN

Hopkins and formed the Student Labor Action Committee (SLAC). Its goal was to get Hopkins to ensure that all direct or subcontracted employees in the Hopkins system are kept out of poverty.

The first phase of the campaign forced the Hopkins administration to admit that it controlled Broadway Services, its subcontractor that paid poverty wages to hundreds of workers, and could affect its policies.

This led to raises in 1997 and more significant increases in February 1999. But the raises were not the then-current living wage so SLAC led a sit that led to the "sit-in agreement," benefiting over a thousand workers.

Since that time, SLAC has continued to call for an indexed living wage policy resulting in another set of increases being put into effect. These will bring the wages of all direct and subcontracted employees at the university and hospital to the current Baltimore living wage of \$8.50, effective today, May 1, for the university and July 1 for the hospital.

Without militant action, SLAC's ongoing pressure moved Hopkins to "internalize" regular raises to eliminate poverty wages at Hopkins, even if it has not adopted an officially indexed living wage policy. But the effect, for now at least, is the same: virtually no worker will be paid poverty wages at Hopkins this year. In addition, a series of other positive measures are being implemented, benefiting temporary workers and upholding the right of students and workers to talk without interference.

SLAC applauds Hopkins for these steps and encourages all members of the Hopkins community and Baltimoreans to celebrate this victory for workers on May Day. The cause of labor is much more complex, difficult and enduring than the living wage can address.

It is a reform only and does not represent the far-reaching institutional changes that are needed for true economic justice, the goal that May Day reminds us to keep in sight. But the long-term success of the living wage movement is an encouraging sign of the power of people who believe in economic justice to effect change through organized action.

Christopher Powers is a graduate student in the Humanities Center.

The other story from the war in Iraq

JEREMY TULLY NON-CORPORATE NEWS

Michael Guerrin's account in *Le Monde* of his time in Iraq is the kind of report ing unlikely to penetrate the U.S. media bubble. "American soldiers had seized the opportunity to tear up portraits of Saddam Hussein on the main street. They were doing this right in front of the local inhabitants, whose elation quickly vanished. The soldiers obviously didn't imagine that it was up to the Iraqis to be doing this, or that it was humiliating for them. These were the same soldiers who would topple down Saddam's statue in Baghdad three weeks later."

From the start, the media in America covered the war against Iraq on the assumption that indeed this was a war about "liberation," and the result has been eager acceptance of any evidence, however shaky, that seems to support this claim.

Case in point: a central prophecy of the Bush administration was that crowds would greet "coalition" troops as they entered Iraqi towns. At first, those predictions failed to materialize. Thus the iconic toppling of the statue of Saddam Hussein in downtown Baghdad was immediately seized upon by the administration and media. Here, at last, was the evi-

dence that Iraqis wanted us to bomb them in order to free their country from the Butcher of Baghdad. It was immediately hailed as a "historic moment" by Ari Fleischer and compared by Donald Rumsfeld to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In reality, it was little more than a staged media event. A wide-angle photo, attributed to Reuters and available on the Not In Our Names Web site shows a large plaza with roads blocked off by the U.S. military and a U.S. vehicle pulling the statue over.

Without exception the major media outlets endorsed this deceptive narrative. The media's treatment of the story has ensured that it will be one of the most lasting images of the war; the innocent victims of Bush's political agenda will remain invisible.

Initial signs of U.S. plans for a post-war Iraq are hardly promising either. Protests erupted after news surfaced that America had ap-

pointed a former Ba'ath party member and brigadier general in Hussein's army as interim chief of Basra. Donald Rumsfeld meanwhile denies that U.S. plans for four military bases are permanent, noting coyly that with the establishment of a "friendly" government in Iraq, such a presence would not be necessary.

Few in the media have asked whether by a "friendly" government Rumsfeld means one like those in Egypt, Jordan or Saudi Arabia, major U.S. allies in the region with notorious track records for suppression of democracy. But as the British *Guardian* reports, purges "will be limited to Baghdad's top leadership," presumably for show. Saddam Hussein's government by and large will remain intact.

And the dead? Frankly, the administration doesn't care about them: the Pentagon quickly vetoed a Senate proposal to provide some measure of restitution for the victims and their families by saying that it had no plans to count civilian casualties. There are far more important beneficiaries (Halliburton) for Bush's war bill.

Jeremy Tully can be reached at jtully@jhnewsletter.com.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Healthcare to be a major issue in 2004



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.REDANDGREEN.ORG](http://www.redandgreen.org)
Protests against current U.S. healthcare policies are increasing due to the growing disparity between the insured and the uninsured.

BY ROBERT DAVIS

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

With the start of the 2004 election season come the 2004 election proposals and promises. This year's key topic is universal healthcare. Current estimates show that nearly 40 million Americans are uninsured, and another 80 are underinsured, staggering numbers that are sure to grab voters' attention, and their votes.

Often criticized as a pipedream, universal healthcare has become increasingly important as Baby Boomers approach retirement. A poll conducted last fall for the Kaiser Family Foundation and National Public Radio found that 69 percent of voters considered the issue of healthcare.

Last week, Representative Richard A. Gephardt, one of eight Democratic presidential hopefuls, announced his plans for universal healthcare.

"Forty-one million Americans have no health insurance. That's 41 million reasons why the George Bush economy and the George Bush indifference have got to go," said Gephardt in a recent interview with *The Washington Post*.

The Gephardt plan calls for all employers to offer insurance to employees. Employers would receive a 60 percent tax credit, up from the current 30 percent. For the unemployed, the plan calls for an expansion of the Medicare and Medicaid systems. States would receive federal funding for 60 percent of the healthcare costs.

But the cost to the federal government remains substantial. Gephardt's estimates show the plan would cost \$213 billion in 2005, which will then increase by \$15 to \$20 billion each following two years. This compares to the \$22.9 billion of federal funds spent on education, or the \$546.6 billion of military spending for the 2000 calendar year.

Gephardt also detailed how to fund the plan. For starters, Gephardt calls for a total elimination of the \$1.3 trillion tax cut of 2001 and the \$726 billion tax cut proposed for this fiscal year. The rest of the money would come from new taxes levied on employers who fail to provide health care, and in some cases higher state sales taxes to cover state governments' fiscal responsibility to the plan.

"This is the right way to stimulate the economy — not knee-jerk tax cuts that do nothing but pay off

George Bush's wealthy campaign contributors while killing economic growth," Gephardt told a reporter with *The Washington Post*.

While universal healthcare is important to voters, it is very fragile ground. The failure of a proposal can leave a candidate dead in the water. Some political scientists blame Clinton's 1994 healthcare plan for the Democrats' loss of a majority in the House.

Many politicians consider universal healthcare a pipedream. But Canada has had a stable running socialized healthcare since the 1950's. The system gives patients free access to healthcare, reduced prescriptions, and free prescriptions to patients over 65. But the Canadian system does have its drawbacks.

While patients pay nothing, taxpayers are burdened with an average tax of \$1200 per person per household. A family of four has a tax of nearly \$5000, well beyond the cost of most comprehensive health insurance.

Canada has also prohibited private insurance companies and private hospitals, thus creating a monopoly in the system. The one remaining private for-profit hospital in Quebec, which exists thanks to a grandfather clause in the law, is forced to work entirely within the public system using government funds.

The system is still wrought with abuse. Because the cost of the product is zero, demand skyrockets. Patients will see a doctor for any problem no matter how small. This creates undue strain on the system. There are also cases of patients using hospitals as nursing homes — anyone who flashes an ID at a receptionist receives a bed and food.

The government has also tightened the two largest drains on the healthcare system, doctors' wages and hospital equipment. The result was an 11 percent drop in the average time doctors spent with patients, and a reduction of the work year by two and a half weeks. The current income ceiling for a general practitioner stands at Canadian \$164,108 a year.

Despite flaws in the Canadian system, all citizens have the right to healthcare. The possibility of universal healthcare in America remains a hot button political issue that will inspire attention and debate in both the 2004 election and beyond.

BY FAREED RIYAZ

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A major research study, the first to test the effects of a combination of lifestyle changes on high blood pressure, has shown that mildly elevated blood pressure can be lowered without the use of medication.

The study, called PREMIER, was conducted at four different locations, including the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. The findings of PREMIER were recently published in report form, appearing in the April 23 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Under the leadership of Dr. Lawrence Appel, a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University, investigators studied the combined effects of 180 minutes of moderately intense exercise per week, a reduced-fat diet containing more fruits and vegetables and less red meat, reduced sodium intake, weight loss of at least 15 pounds and limiting the number of alcoholic beverages consumed to one per day for women, and two per day for men.

Dr. Laura Svetkey, of the Duke University Hypertension Center and one of the coauthors of the report, said in an interview that "previous studies had established that each one (of the changes) lowered blood pressure, but no study had combined all."

The participants in the study were randomly divided into one of three



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Blood pressure research will benefit many people, especially seniors.

groups. Two hundred and seventy-three patients were placed into the first group, which was given general advice on lowering blood pressure in one 30-minute session with a registered dietitian. Participants in the second group, which contained 268 people, were given 18 counseling sessions over the six months.

Finally, for the third group, which had 269 participants, the 18 previously mentioned counseling sessions were also provided, but were also advised on the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hy-

pertension (DASH) diet. The DASH diet emphasizes the consumption of fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy products, poultry and fish.

At the end of the six-month period, the researchers retook measurements for the blood pressure and hypertension status for all of the participants, to see the extent to which each of the methods had had a beneficial effect.

Participants in all three groups had reductions in their blood pressure. Additionally, the number of people with uncontrolled hypertension dropped

from 37 percent at the beginning of the study to only 12 percent.

Baseline hypertension prevalence had been 38 percent at the beginning of the study, across each of the groups. By the end of the study, that number had dropped to 26 percent for the advice-only group, but was only 17 percent in the group that received the 18 counseling sessions, and only 12 percent in the group which received the additional advice on the DASH diet.

Participants in the third group were also less likely to need medication to control their symptoms; while 19 people in the first group needed blood pressure medication, only two people in the second group and five in the third group had these same needs.

Dr. Appel summarized the findings of the study in a Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Press Release by stating that the study "... shows that people can simultaneously make multiple lifestyle changes that lower their blood pressure and improve their health."

Dr. Appel also acknowledged that the taking on of such a large number of behavioral changes is not an easy task. "For people who have a hard time with this, start with one change, like exercising, and then add others as you can," he said in a JHU Press Release. Appel also warned that patients should consult their physicians before starting or increasing their levels of exercise.

Lectka's research to focus on fluorination

BY SUPRIA RANADE

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Dr. Thomas Lectka, a Hopkins chemistry professor since 1994, was recently awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship to work on the collaborative development of synthetic fluorination reactions.

The research, to be conducted primarily in Switzerland and Italy, will focus on the reactive diatomic molecule, fluorine. Because of its unstable and very reactive properties, fluorine has many different applications in the scientific field. For example, fluorine, when synthesized correctly, can be beneficial for shutting down undesired metabolic pathways in pharmaceutical development. This can be especially useful in trying to combat psychiatric and physical ailments.

Furthermore, a market propensity towards fluorinated medicine is in application of fluorine-containing polymers as a material for synthetic blood vessels (vasculums), for manufacturing advanced remedies of different purposes, fluorine-containing antibiotics.

In its natural state, however, fluorine takes the form of a green gas. In order to manipulate its electrochemical properties, fluorine is synthesized with mainly carbon atoms using specialized glassware, reaction vessels and materials containing tephlon. These sorts of apparatuses are expensive and are only in select laboratories around the world.

Although traditionally, hydrogen is bonded with fluorine, Dr. Lectka's research will concentrate on carbon to fluorine bonding. When carbon is bonded with fluorine, it yields a ther-

mally more stable configuration which can therefore be used in the medical field.

"The goal of my research is to come up with sophisticated ways of selective fluorination that will have many practical outcomes," said Dr. Lectka.

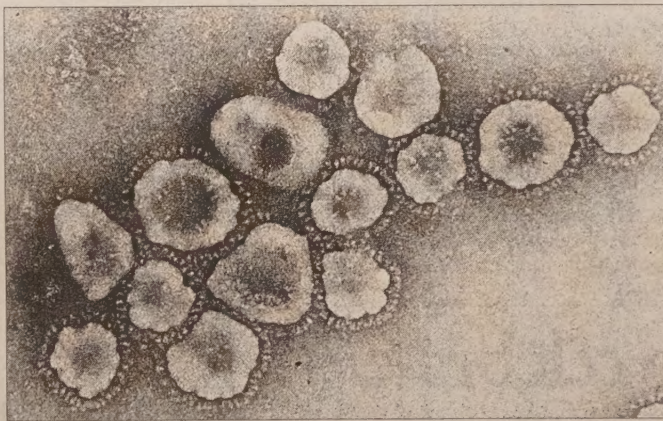
The problems of expansion of manufacturing fluorinated compounds and decreasing production cost are connected largely with the level of their production technology. The industrial methods of production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC, FC, HCFC) by liquid phase or gas phase fluorination are perfect enough, as is the process of manufacturing fluoro-olefins: tetrafluoroethylene, vinylidene fluoride etc..

This sort of process has already been used for areas of research such as optomology. Although various mechanisms have been used to gain a

better understanding of the metabolic processes, its practical applications are rather expensive.

China has also developed technology in which fluorine can be synthesized with other organic compounds. So far, researchers have finished favorable work on the technology of R-22, where fluorination of isotetrafluoroethylene and polytetrafluoroethylene takes place. But many fluorine-containing compounds such as hexafluoropropylene-oxide and perfluoroalkyl vinyl ethers require a new engineering philosophy to enlarge production.

"This is certainly a pioneer area of research. The future of catalytic reactions involving fluorine is both challenging and will add new scientific discovery to traditional chemistry literature," said Dr. Lectka.



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The SARS coronavirus undergoes recombination to mutate genetically.

SARS attack advances

BY JONATHAN GROVER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) first emerged in humans in China in early February. Since then there have been more than 200 reported fatalities in nearly 5000 cases.

While the World Health Organization originally cited the death rate for SARS to be about four percent, experts now worry that statistic may be unreliable. The most recent statistic reported by Hong Kong, Canada, and Singapore (three of the hardest hit places) set the death rates at 7.6, 10.7, and 9.9 percent respectively. The revision for the SARS fatality rate, likely at approximately 10 percent, puts the disease on par with viruses such as yellow fever and Japanese encephalitis.

Recent studies show that SARS is caused by a coronavirus, which has not been involved in any previous outbreaks. Studies in monkey performed in the Netherlands showed that the new coronavirus alone was sufficient to cause SARS.

There are 10 known coronaviruses,

which affect mammals, two of which are responsible for common colds. However, a great number of coronaviruses are still unknown. The virus responsible for SARS is believed to be distantly related to a mouse coronavirus and avian coronavirus. Coronaviruses undergo a process known as recombination, where they swap material with each other. The resultant virus is genetically similar to its parents but may contain capabilities.

According to virologist Shinji Makino of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, the SARS virus may have likely long been able to infect people. If this is the case then it only recently encountered conditions which allowed it to spread. On the other hand, the virus could be derived from unidentified animal coronaviruses which only recently mutated to a human virus.

Despite these problems, research continues. Recently, Chinese researchers who sequenced the virus reported a sequence considerably different from that of current information, indicating that the virus mutates rapidly.

New device claims to stop HIV transmission

BY TRISTEN CHUN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Can a HIV-positive man safely have intercourse with his partner and successfully become a parent without transmitting the lethal virus to his partner or his children?

A new, effective and low-cost birth control device currently available on the market claims to protect women against HIV.

Scientists from the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in Britain have also discovered that sperm washing technique can significantly reduce the chance of transmitting the virus without reducing the chance of conception. Even though there are still doubts about the safety of the procedures, their announcement is raising hopes among many parents.

AZT, an anti-HIV drug that crosses the blood-brain barrier, reduces the risk of HIV transmission between mothers and their children when combined with extra vitamin A and Caesarian section birth.

For HIV-positive men, however, risks are much higher. Even though sperm cells are not thought to carry the virus, semen may harbor the virus. Semen is a seminal fluid that surrounds the sperm cells, supplying nutrients while they travel up the vagina.

According to *The Washington Post*, FemCap Inc., a company based in San Diego, California, has introduced a new barrier contraceptive device called FemCap that covers the cervix entirely. When used in conjunction with a microbicide, a type of spermicide, the new device can block the sperm entry into the cervix, where most HIV receptors exist. The risk of developing HIV infection from having an intercourse can thus be signifi-

cantly reduced.

FemCap can be worn for up to 48 hours at a time and remains reusable for up to two years. It can be maintained as little as \$2 per month, and is a benefit for those who wish to have sexual intercourse while possibly infected with HIV.

HIV-positive couples wanting children have had to either risk unprotected sex or find donor sperm at a high cost. But British scientists are offering a new treatment that seems promising, according to *The Guardian*.

Sperm washing treatment separates individual sperm from the potentially dangerous semen. This is usually done using a centrifuge - a device that separates a mixture into different layers by spinning. Healthy sperm will sediment to the bottom of the tube and used in insemination.

According to the BBC news in London, one third out of 53 couples taking part in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital research program were able to conceive a child using this sperm washing technique. There have been no reported instances of HIV in the sperm sample following the washing treatment. This should be assuring to some couples who are considering whether or not to go ahead with the treatment.

People with HIV want access to the many opportunities in life that the virus has made unattainable. The newly available treatment and devices recently introduced by scientists may give these people new possibilities. Through the means of new technology and new scientific discoveries, couples infected with HIV virus are able to have sexual intercourse without serious consequences.



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Richard Gephardt's proposal for revised healthcare is controversial, despite clauses helping doctors and providing hospital equipment.

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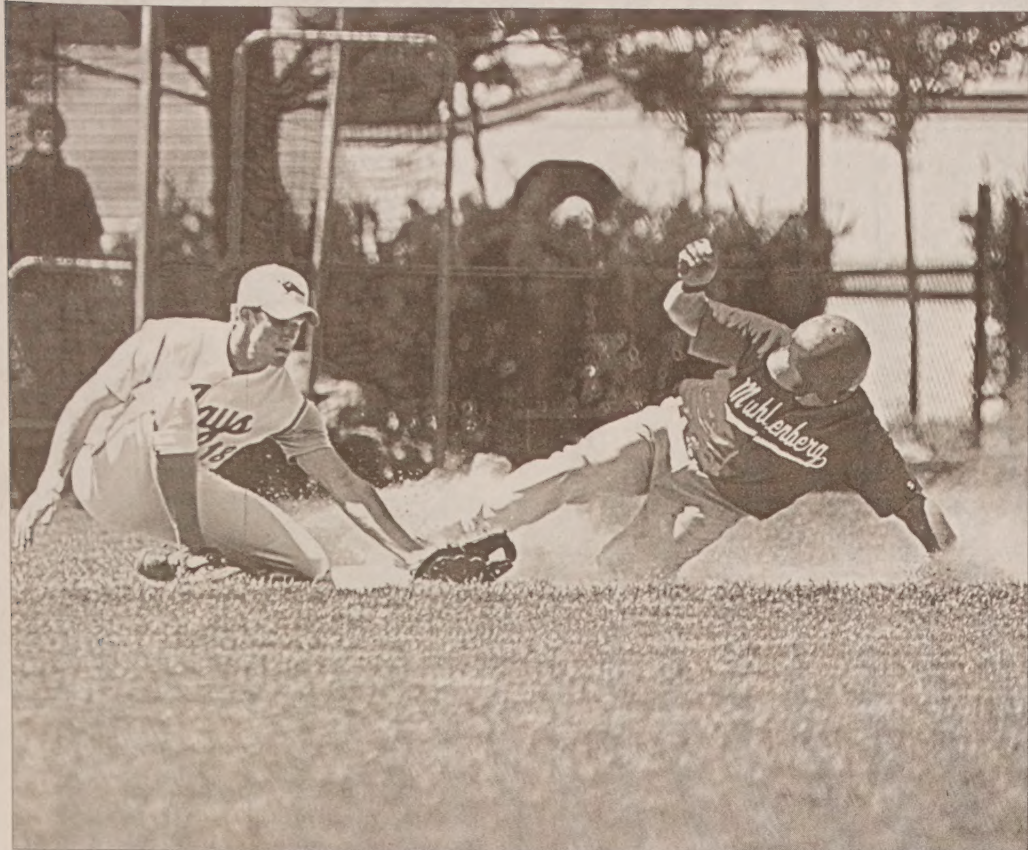
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SPORTS

Jays ready for Centennial Tourney



A Muhlenberg baserunner tries to slide past sophomore infielder Paul Long, who attempts to make the tag.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

been throughout the year. Sophomore Ryan McConnell earned his second victory of the year with a six-inning, two-run outing. Freshman pitcher Andrew Bail closed out the final half inning, allowing one run.

Hopkins had a much more difficult time on offense in the second game, but the hitters came through when they needed to, giving the Blue Jays a 3-1 victory over the Bears. Ursinus struck first, scoring a run in the bottom of the second, which Hopkins would match in its ensuing turn at the plate.

The game remained knotted at one apiece until the top of the sixth inning, when sophomore outfielder Eric Nigro hit a dramatic two-run home run, his second one of the season. Freshman pitcher Jason Thayer would hold the lead for the next two innings to seal his second victory of the year and his first career complete game.

"It was great that Jason stepped up and beat the number two team in our conference," remarked senior co-captain and pitcher Jeremy Brown.

The doubleheader sweep of

Ursinus was the second in two days for the Blue Jays, who were fresh off a sweep of Muhlenberg College at home on Sunday. In the first game, the Blue Jays scored two runs in the bottom of the first, courtesy of RBI singles from the bats of Durgala and Long. Muhlenberg cut the lead in half in the top of the second with a solo home run, but senior outfielder Jay Cieri restored the two-run advantage with a solo home run of his own in the bottom of the second. The Blue Jays increased their advantage to 4-1 with a run in the third.

Hopkins would score twice more in the fifth inning, extending its advantage to 6-1, which would hold for the remainder of the game. Brown turned in a dazzling performance on the mound, pitching a complete game and surrendering just one run for his sixth win of the season.

He struck out 11 Mules hitters, his second consecutive outing with double figure strikeouts. His dominant performance was good enough to earn him Centennial Conference Pitcher of the Week honors.

In the nightcap, Muhlenberg took a 1-0 lead in the opening half inning,

but Hopkins matched this mark in the bottom half of the first when Durgala's groundout drove in Spiciarich.

Muhlenberg scored again in the top of the second, but Hopkins once again responded in its half of the second. This time, Hopkins one-upped Muhlenberg by scoring two runs on a two-run home run by junior shortstop Tim Casale. Casale ended up going 2-for-3 en route to a 7-for-13 week that was worthy of Centennial Conference co-player of the week recognition.

Casale has been playing out of position this season to fill in for injured junior Carl Ippolito, and he has come through in a big way for the Blue Jays. Junior pitcher Matt Righter did not allow a run from the second inning on to improve his record to 4-0. Junior right-handed reliever Sven Stafford picked up his second save of the season, bailing Righter out of a bases-loaded jam with one out in the seventh.

Last Thursday afternoon, Hopkins shut out visiting Washington College 8-0. After executing its first triple play since opening day of 2001, Hopkins

scored first in the bottom of the second inning, thanks to an RBI double from Paul Long.

The Jays tallied single runs in the third and fourth innings with an RBI single by Durgala and a home run by Casale.

Hopkins augmented its lead to 4-0 in the sixth inning when Cieri drew a bases-loaded walk and added two runs in both the seventh and eighth innings to solidify victory. Berger tossed his second straight shutout to improve his record to 6-0. Berger has not given up a run in his last 18.1 innings of work and now sports an ERA of 2.68 for the season.

The Centennial Conference Tournament kicks off this weekend, with the Blue Jays holding a guaranteed spot in the finals. They will host the final series on Saturday and Sunday against the winner of the semifinals. Saturday's game begins at 3:30 p.m. and Sunday's first game is scheduled for 12 p.m. with a game to follow immediately if necessary.

The baseball team feels good about its chances in the tournament, as they are the only team in their conference that is nationally ranked within the top 30 in polls. Hopkins currently stands at number six in the ABCA poll and is number one in the Mid-Atlantic Region. If the Blue Jays win their conference tournament this weekend, they will qualify for the Regional Tournament, to be held May 16 through May 18.

Before Regionals, though, Hopkins will prepare with a game against York at home at 3:30 p.m. next Tuesday and a game at Salisbury at 3 p.m. If the Blue Jays go on to win the Regional Tournament, they are headed for the World Series in Wisconsin. Nevertheless, the Blue Jays must focus on winning the conference tournament, first and foremost.

"We need to take things one day at a time and make sure we do the things we need to do to get to the World Series," stated Berger.

"The main sentiment going into the conference meet is confidence," added Brown. "We definitely feel that we can beat any team that we play."

Track ends season with races at Penn

BY MELISSA O'BERG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins Men's and Women's Track and Field teams wrapped up their regular season last week at the University of Pennsylvania Relays and the Millersville Metrics.

There was no team scoring at either meet, yet the squad boasted a number of impressive individual performances.

"We had a lot of personal records," said freshman Gabe Tonkin.

Hopkins sent a small team to the Penn Relays, including senior Kathy Darling and the men's and women's 4x400 relay teams.

In the discus, Darling was the top Division III finisher and placed third out of 27 competitors with a throw of 157 ft.

Darling's season best throw of 150'9" in the javelin gave her a fourth place finish in the javelin championship.

While the men's 4x400 relay team did not finish, the women placed 12th out of 14 schools with a season-best time of 4:18.70.

At the Millersville Metrics, the men recorded three top-five finishes. Senior Quinlan Amos was second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.1 seconds. Junior Justin Leck posted a season-best mark of 149'5" in the javelin placing him second overall.

Senior John Onofrey rounded out the top performances as he came in fifth in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:08.9. Freshman Derrick Norgriff also performed well as he finishing 10th in the shot put with a throw of 38'3.75" and 12th in the discus with 109'11".

"Our top distance freshman, Nick Sousa, is sick and is going to be out for conferences," said Tonkin.

For the women, sophomore Andrea King finished third in the shot put with a throw of 35'5", while freshman Joanna Cohen was 14th in the 200-meter dash with JHU's

best 200-meter time of the season, 27.7 seconds.

Sophomore Maureen Kimsey was 13th in the 1,500 meter run and senior Ly-Lan Wisler was 16th. Kimsey's time was 5:10.5 and Wisler's was 5:14.5.

"Considering the poor weather, the team as a whole did quite well. When you get there [Millersville] and realize it's pouring rain, you're not exactly looking to set a personal record," said Kimsey.

Hopkins will travel to Gettysburg, Pa. for the 2003 Centennial Conference Championships at Gettysburg College next Saturday.

Considering the poor weather, the team as a whole did quite well. When you get there [Millersville] and realize it's pouring rain, you're not exactly looking to set a personal record.

—MAUREEN KIMSEY

Home win over North Carolina gives Women's Lax reason to cheer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

Pearce commenced a Hopkins scoring spree in the second half in the first minute of play with another goal, then subsequently feeding Holland — her second of the game — making the score 7-2. Senior midfielder Erinn Dennis then scored an unassisted left-handed shot, followed by yet another Pearce goal.

Continuing the rally, Burnett made a stellar play by stealing the ball from the Carolina goalie while

formance of the Jays' defense. Juniors Rachel Krom and Kate Gilland and sophomores Lacey Hentz and Kristen Miller combined efforts to repeatedly rip the ball from UNC and send it back downfield to their offense.

"Not only was this game the first time we played as a team for the entire 60 minutes," said Burnett, "but it was the first time our attack played with absolute confidence and we all clicked together."

This game was also of a certain significance to the Hopkins seniors, for it was to be their last appearance on Homewood Field. The importance of this game was evident in their level of play.

"We all wanted each senior to have a great game, but they went above and beyond having a great game, each of them making their mark in one of our most exciting wins ever," said sophomore midfielder Anne Crisafulli.

Seniors Holland, Burnett and Dennis each had at least one goal, while McDonald took care of business on the defensive end, allowing just two

goals.

Holland commented, "This was an incredible game to have as our last time on Homewood field. All of us seniors could not have asked for a better win."

The unexpected win over UNC came on the heels of two victories from earlier in the week, the first of which came against unranked George Washington on Friday and the other against unranked American on Wednesday.

The Lady Jays won those games by scores of 15-4 and 15-10, respectively.

Atop the stats chart for the two games were Dennis, who registered four goals and one assist in the GW game, and Burnett, who followed suit with similar four goals and one assist of her own in the American game.

The Lady Jays have two more away games this week. Wednesday they travel a few miles to take on Towson University at 3 p.m., and Saturday they make their way to Virginia to face George Mason University at 1 p.m.

High ticket rates alienate real fans

Feel your wallet getting lighter? If you've been to a sporting event lately, you might not be the only who thinks ticket prices are getting out of hand.

Now, it shouldn't come as a shock that professional sports are a game of making money.

An owner or group of minority owners that shells out hundreds of millions of dollars to buy a franchise doesn't cherish the thought of spending millions more each year to cover losses.

Owners will do just about anything to keep fans buying seats in arenas. When the fans come they buy food, drinks, maybe even memorabilia, thus constituting one of the best revenue-producers for a team. Feedback is instant. Underperforming teams risk declining attendance and with that comes declining revenue.

Television ratings are important too, but more so in the long run. The NBA makes huge money selling the rights to broadcast games on networks and local cable stations.

More eyeballs watching the games equals higher ratings. This means that when the contracts expire — usually every couple of years — the league has more bargaining power and can negotiate a higher price. Networks are willing to pay because higher ratings generate higher advertising revenues during the games, from which they profit.

It looks like everybody wins. Owners, players, networks all make money. Advertisers get big audiences so they make big bucks as well. But, as we all know, the little guy gets left out.

The problem has gotten worse lately.

A regular admission ticket to last year's biggest sporting event, Super Bowl XXXVII, cost \$400.

The same ticket to the same game in the same stadium five years ago cost \$275. That's an increase of 68 percent over five years. Talk about outpacing inflation, that's an understatement.

Maybe that's an unfair comparison; the Super Bowl is a special occasion. Let's look at a regular season baseball game.

Team Marketing Report, a publisher that measures the cost of going to the ballpark said this year that a family of four that wanted to attend a Red Sox baseball game, and then get drinks, programs, et cetera could expect to pay \$214.33 for their night out on the town.

Surely the highest ticket prices must be tied to winning championships? Not exactly; Boston was the



ERIC RIDGE
IN THE GAME

highest priced team, and they haven't won the World Series since 1918.

Right now, you're probably asking yourself whether you would pay the prices in either of the two examples. If you said no, you're not alone.

Critics say that prices will never crowd out Average Joe and his family if they want to attend a game, because owners make their money on Average Joe and his family. If enough Average Joes can't afford the trip to the ballpark, they say, then prices will drop because owners won't want to face declining revenues.

But that argument misses the trend taking place in sports today. Stadiums nationwide are now being built equipped with club seats and luxury boxes. This allows teams

to sell high prices seats to big buyers.

Fans are responding. It took years for the Washington Redskins to sell all the season tickets to their club seats section, even while tens of thousands of fans sit on the waiting list for seats.

Across the country, even in different sports, the story is still the same. Attendance in Major League Baseball ballparks is down 6 percent.

Is this the year that fans finally say enough is enough?

Now, I'm going to change topics entirely and take a minute to be selfish. Since it is the last issue of the year, I think it's only fitting to use a few inches to recognize the fine people who have worked all year to make our section a success each week.

Thanks to all of the people who have written for Sports. Marisa, Andy, Jamie and Melissa earn special recognition for sticking with us all this year.

My biggest thanks goes to Ron Demeter, a wonderful co-editor and a great friend who will now be moving up the ranks to the position of Editor-in-Chief.

As for me, I'll be moving from the Sports pages to the News section. To Claire and Jon, who will be taking over our section next year, I wish you the best of luck, although I'm sure that you won't need it.

It was the first time our attack played with absolute confidence and we all clicked together.

—MEGHAN BURNETT

she was trying to clear it and then faking her out to score an unassisted goal, making the score 10-2. Pearce scored her fourth and final goal of the game to make it 11-2, followed by a beautiful passing sequence that resulted in a Holland goal from a Burnett pass, setting the final score at 12-2 with 12 minutes left in regulation.

The second half proved to be a shut-out for senior goalie Jen McDonald, who had to make just five saves thanks to the dominating per-

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M. Lax to take on Loyola



Sophomore midfielder Kyle Harrison scoops up a loose ball in the Jay's 17-9 victory of the Towson Tigers.

Continued from Page A12

a 3-1 lead. Freshman midfielder Greg Peyser, sophomore attackman Kyle Barrie and Boland all scored during that spurt.

But Towson fought back, attacking Hopkins' senior goalie Rob Scherr (12 saves) early and often and scoring five of the next six goals. Five different Tiger players scored during the run.

The two teams traded goals once more before the half ended, with Hopkins still trailing by two. But after overcoming a slow start in the third quarter, the Jays' offense erupted and Towson never recovered.

"In the first half of the game we did not play our brand of lacrosse," said Doneger. "They were more physical than we were and it showed. Finally, in the second half we started to play the way that we are capable of playing."

Instrumental in the win was Ford, whose efforts often go unnoticed because the Jays have so many offensive weapons. His five assists brought his team-leading total to 19.

"Conor Ford is an extremely underrated lacrosse player," said Benson. "He has an excellent shot, but he also has a great lacrosse IQ.

This allows him to find open teammates and it is the reason he often has a lot of assists."

Loyola is a very dangerous lacrosse team. They have an excellent face-off man, -patient offense, and a good goalie, which means every possession will be critical.

—BOBBY BENSON

Scherr and his defense were impenetrable from the mid-third quarter on, as eight of Scherr's 12 saves came in the second half.

The lone team left on Hopkins' regular-season schedule is Loyola,

who will make the five-minute drive on Charles Street to battle the Blue Jays in their homecoming game at 3 p.m. Saturday.

"Loyola is a very dangerous lacrosse team," said Benson, who will be playing his last regular season game at Homewood next weekend along with the other Blue Jays seniors. "They have an excellent face-off man, -patient offense, and a good goalie, which means every possession will be critical. It is also homecoming and the last regular season home game for us seniors and we want to go out as winners."

With a red-hot offense consistently scoring in double-digits and an equally sizzling defensive unit that has not allowed more than 10 goals since March, the Blue Jays look poised to make a serious run at the National Championship for the first time since 1987, when the Blue Jays won their third title in four seasons.

"There is always the old saying that offense wins game and defense wins championships," said Benson. "This is just as true in lacrosse as any other sport and our defense has been tremendous this year. However, I think for us to win a National Championship we will need both the offense and the defense to be at its best during the playoffs."

The Blue Jays have taken home seven NCAA crowns since the inception of the NCAA tournament in 1971. For an eighth to be added to the trophy case, Doneger believes it's all about defense.

"Defense wins championships and Coach Pietramala has instilled that in us," Doneger said. "Although our offense must play well come playoff time, it will be the defense that will lead us to a National Championship."

Jays draw tough competition in Centennial Conf. tourney

Continued from Page A12

Scherb of Haverford 6-2, 7-5.

In doubles action, the tandem of Alford and Belisario, the No. 2 seed, were given a bye in the first round before facing Andrew Mayer and Bryan Pilkington from Franklin & Marshall. The Jays came out on top, winning 8-2, advancing to the quarterfinals. However, they were upset in the quarterfinals by Jeff Kraft and Cameron Parke of Muhlenberg, 8-3.

The combo of Grant Roch and freshman Michael Kelly-Sell were also able to advance. They defeated Geoff Gamble and Hans Hardisty 9-8 to move onto the round of 16. However, their run was abruptly ended as they could not overcome Asfand Farouk and Alvaro Prado of Washington, losing 8-3.

Before the Centennial Championships, the men defeated Franklin & Marshall 6-1 last Wednesday. Hopkins took five of the six singles points and took the doubles point, winning all three of the double matches.

The men ended their season 7-5 overall and 6-2 in the Centennial Conference. Speaking on his feelings on the teams finish this season, Alford said, "I'm pretty satisfied with finish considering that we were not ranked regionally in the beginning of the season. We moved into the rankings, we moved to 16th. It's a solid showing, hopefully we'll be able to build on it for next year."

On the women's side, Vandna Jerath advanced the furthest, making it to the quarterfinals before being upset by the No. 5 seed Shoko Nakamura of Washington College. The third seeded Jerath fell 6-0, 6-2.

To get to the quarterfinals, Jerath had to beat two other competitors. The victims were Shanna Pusey of McDaniel who Vandna topped 6-3, 6-1, and Mackenzie Parke of Muhlenberg, who Jerath downed 6-3, 6-4.

Two other Hopkins women made it passed the first round, sophomore Michelle Liang and junior Cara



Senior Kevin Alford competed in the Conference tournament finals.

Loeys. Liang downed Emily Ruben of Dickinson in three sets to advance, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1, while Loeys had an easier time, shutting out Ioana Butoi of Bryn Mawr 6-0, 6-0. Unfortunately, neither was able to pass the round of 16, with Liang falling to the fifth seed Kristina Pao of Swarthmore 6-3, 6-1, and Loeys being downed by the No. 2 seed Gena Ross of Muhlenberg, 6-0, 6-1.

In doubles, two squads advanced to the round of 16 before falling. Liang and Loeys, fifth seeded doubles, won by default over their opponents before losing to the No. 2 seed Julie Chalfant and Melisa Sviatko of Dickinson 8-1. Junior Liz Crow and freshman Amanda Leese

were the other duo that advanced, beating Kaity Butler and Courtney Root of Ursinus before dropping their next match 8-3 to the top seeded doubles tandem, Ne'ko Browder and Shoko Nakamura of Washington College.

Before competing in the Championships, the women pounded on Bryn Mawr, easily winning 8-1. Hopkins won all but one of the singles points and swept all three doubles points.

The women ended their season 7-7 overall and 7-3 in the Centennial Conference.

Both teams hope to improve on this year's results, as almost all of the starters on both teams will be returning.

The 'Baby' Jays have just grown up

It has been 16 years and running since Hopkins last won a national championship. As a member of that 1987 Championship team, head coach Dave Pietramala knows what it takes to win. Over the past three seasons Pietramala has helped maintain the excellence expected from a Johns Hopkins Lacrosse team. We have had some strong teams since Pietramala took over, but this year's team is really something special.

A strong defense has been a Johns Hopkins trademark under Pietramala, but it seems as though the offense has finally caught up. The team has already scored 16 points or more five times this season. Last season the Blue Jays highest scoring output was 14 goals against Towson and

they only managed to score 10 or more points five times during the 2002 season.

Last year's team finished the regular season ranked No. 1 overall. However, the Jays struggled in the playoffs. But, last year's team was also one of the youngest teams in the nation. The team consisted mainly of sophomores and freshman. Most of their wins last year were extremely close, but this year Hopkins has been blowing out its opponents. This could in part be explained by the mere fact that last year's "Baby Jays" have grown up.

Finally all of the pieces are in place. Hopkins doesn't depend on one or two stars to score goals. Instead the team has a balanced attack led by Bobby Benson, Kyle Barrie and Peter LeSueur. All three are liable to score at anytime. The development of Barrie and LeSueur has made the attack a dangerous combination.

The team's midfield unit is probably the best in the in the nation. Adam Doneger has one of the best shots in college lacrosse and has starred on the team for the past four

chases down every loose ball and has developed into a potent defensive player. Senior Rob Scherr has been phenomenal after losing his job to Nick Murtha last year. The Jay's defense consisting of players such as Michael Peyser, Tom Garvey and Chris Watson has been a model of

A strong defense has been a Johns Hopkins trademark under Pietramala, but it seems as though the offense has finally caught up.

consistency.

Point being, this is the best Hopkins team we have had in a while. If there is ever a chance to win a national championship in the near future, it is this year. With seniors such as Doneger, Benson, Peyser and Scherr in their prime and sophomores like Barrie, Harrison and LeSueur coming into their own, this team has loads of potential to work with. Coach Pietramala needs to harness this talent to its fullest this postseason. This is our chance to take the title.

After two and a half years of running this section, this is my final issue as sports editor of the paper. Next year I will leave the confines of the Gatehouse basement and begin my reign as one of the Editors in Chief. I only hope that I will be able to do as good a job with the entire paper as I've done with this section. Eric and I are leaving Sports in the hands of Jon Zimmer and Claire Koehler who we hope will do an even better job than we have. Both of our successors play varsity sports and we hope that their experiences will lead to new insights for our section. I would like to thank Marisa Baldwin, Andy Lee, Melissa O'Berg and Jamie Spangler for sticking it out until the end as writers. I would also like to recognize Cara Gitlin and David Pollack for taking a chance on an inexperienced freshman and would like to give a big shout out to David Gonen and Eric Ridge for their work as my co-editors.

LACROSSE RANKINGS

Men's Lacrosse
STX/USILA Poll

- 1 Johns Hopkins
- 2 Virginia
- 3 Massachusetts
- 4 Maryland
- 5 Georgetown
- 6 Princeton
- 7 Hofstra
- 8 Rutgers
- 9 Cornell
- 10 Syracuse
- 11 Towson
- 12 Tie Duke
- 12 Tie Penn State
- 14 UMBC
- 15 Dartmouth
- 16 North Carolina
- 17 Ohio State
- 18 Notre Dame
- 19 Loyola
- 20 Navy

Women's Lacrosse
IWLCA Poll

1. Loyola
2. Maryland
3. Virginia
4. Duke
5. Georgetown
6. Princeton
7. James Madison
8. Dartmouth
9. Yale
10. Ohio State
11. Syracuse
12. Penn State
13. Cornell
14. Stanford
15. Vanderbilt
16. Johns Hopkins
17. North Carolina
18. Notre Dame
19. Old Dominion
20. Boston University



RONDEMETER
THE BOTTOM LINE

years. Kyle Harrison has phenomenal athleticism which enables him to score and win a majority of the faceoffs he takes. Conor Ford, like Doneger, began his career on attack and can be a dangerous scorer and passer. Super-sub Kevin Boland can have monstrous games, as evidenced by his four-goal performance recently against Towson.

The defense has been strong over the past few years. This season, Corey Harned has really come into his own as a long-stick midfielder. Harned

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CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Men's Lacrosse vs. Loyola 3:00 p.m. at Homewood Field

Baseball at the Centennial Conference Play-offs on Baseball diamond. Time TBA

DO YOU KNOW?

Apparently, USA Basketball has offered Elton Brand, Richard Jefferson and Nick Collison to compete in the Olympic qualifying tournament this summer. The Sports staff asks "Why?"

Jays top Tigers in second-half surge



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/NEWS-LETTER

Senior attackman Bobby Benson tries to get around a Towson defender in the Blue Jay's 17-9 victory. Benson had three goals in the contest.

BY JON ZIMMER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Four, three, two ... zero?

No, that's not an incomplete countdown sequence, but rather Towson's declining goal totals by quarter during the Hopkins Men's Lacrosse team's 17-9 win over the Tigers this past Saturday.

The Blue Jays uncharacteristically found themselves facing a three-goal deficit midway through the third quarter, but finished the game with an explosive 11-0 run to secure the victory. The win over No. 10 Towson (6-5) keeps Hopkins atop the STX/USILA poll for yet another week. Winners of seven straight, the Jays are the odds-on favorite to win the top seed in the playoffs as well, barring an upset loss to Loyola this Saturday, May 2.

"We played very well at the end of the game," said senior attackman Bobby Benson, who registered three goals and one assist. "Unfortunately,

it took us a while to adjust to what Towson was doing and we did not play with the same level of intensity for the entire game."

Pacing Hopkins on offense was

HOME	99
Towson	
VISITOR	17
Hopkins	

Benson and junior midfielder Kevin Boland, who contributed four goals and one assist in the winning effort. Senior midfielder Adam Doneger also chipped in with three goals of his own.

"Kevin is a great player that is capable of making big plays at opportune times," said Doneger of Boland, a Third Team balls STX/USILA All-

America selection in 2002. "He sees the field very well enabling him to make the right pass or the right shot. Kevin is having another great year and is really starting to become a scoring threat as well somebody who can make the pass leading up to the goal."

The late run was sparked by back-to-back Hopkins' goals scored in a span of 38 seconds by sophomore midfielder Kyle Harrison and sophomore attackman Peter Lesueur (two goals and two assists).

Junior midfielder Conor Ford (game-high five assists) then netted his lone goal of the day a few minutes later, knotting the score at 9-9. Benson wasted little time in giving Hopkins its first lead of the half, converting an unassisted goal after making a move from behind the cage with just 11 seconds remaining on the third-quarter clock.

Hopkins took no chances in the final frame, completely controlling the Tigers for the last 15 minutes. Doneger and Boland each beat

Towson goalkeeper Reed Sothoron (nine saves) twice apiece during the Jays' dominating run.

Boland's goal-scoring prowess has increasingly shown through as the season has progressed, as the 5'9", 155-pound Baltimore native has racked up 17 goals and 10 assists as a second-line midfielder. Traditionally known as an adept passer, Boland has shown he is equally lethal scoring goals as is he at setting them up this spring.

"Kevin is an incredible lacrosse player," said Benson. "He is extremely quick and excels when he is dodging from behind the goal. However, what a lot of people do not know about Kevin is that is also a good off-ball player and he does a good job putting himself in situations where he can be successful."

Towson opened the scoring with an unassisted goal by Peyton Chase, but Hopkins answered with three consecutive goals of its own, building

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Alford advances to Tennis Conf. finals

BY ANDY LEE

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The tennis season came to an end as the last of the Blue Jays was defeated at the Men's Centennial Conference Championships on Sunday.

Senior Kevin Alford competed in the Conference finals match but was defeated by the top seed, Peter Taylor of Washington College, 6-1, 6-1. Alford, seeded third, was also the only Hopkins tennis player to advance to the Conference semifinal match. In the semifinals Alford faced a tough opponent No. 2 seed Louis Blanchette, also from Washington College. After dropping the first set, Alford was able to come back and eventually defeat his opponent, 5-7, 6-3, 6-0.

"I thought I played well, I had a big game in the semis. Blanchette is a very strong player," Alford said. "Luckily, I was able to fight back from a one set deficit. What I'm most proud of, however, is my perseverance. I didn't give up even after falling behind early."

When asked about his loss in the finals, Alford said, "I just ran into an excellent tennis player. I just got out-classed, it happens sometimes."

Alford finished his final season on the team with an impressive 10-2 record as the No. 1 singles player with

a 13-3 record overall.

Although the rest of the Men's Tennis team did not fare as well as Alford, they still managed a respectable finish. Three of the Hopkins men, including Alford, were able to advance to the round of 16. The other two who advanced were sophomore Justin Belisario and junior Grant Roch. Belisario defeated Alex Chester of Franklin & Marshall 6-4, 7-6 (0), while Roch smoked Jeremy Landis 6-1, 6-0. Since Alford was the No. 3 seed, he got a bye to round of 16.

In the round of 16, the competition got much stiffer, as Belisario faced the fifth seed Hans Hardisty of Gettysburg College. Roch faced the No. 2 seed Louis Blanchette, and Alford faced Randolph Moon of Haverford.

Both Belisario and Alford were able to defeat their opponents; with Justin upsetting the fifth seeded Hardisty, 6-1, 3-6, (8-6) and Kevin topping Randolph Moon 6-2, 6-2. Unfortunately, Roch was defeated by the second seeded Blanchette 6-1, 6-1.

Two Blue Jays made it into the quarter finals but only one advanced to the semifinals. In the quarterfinals, Belisario played the No. 1 seed Peter Taylor, and ultimately lost, 6-0, 6-2. Kevin faced and defeated Aaron

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Jays are Centennial Conference Champs

BY JAMIE SPANGLER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins Baseball team posted an impressive 5-0 record last week, earning the Blue Jays a first-place finish in the Centennial Conference and giving them momentum heading into the playoffs.

The team swept doubleheaders against Ursinus and Muhlenberg to help clinch the conference title for the second consecutive season.

The conference title gives the Jays an advantage in the playoffs, as they get a bye in the first two rounds and then host the semifinal champion in a best-of-three series.

The conference tournament will be held this Friday through Sunday, with the Blue Jays scheduled to play Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning, and, if necessary, Sunday afternoon.

"By the time the teams face us in the Conference Tournament, they will already be on their second- or third-string pitcher," noted junior pitcher Russ Berger.

The Blue Jay victories over Ursinus on Monday afternoon in Pennsylvania extended their winning streak to 11 games and im-

proved their overall record to 28-4 (15-2 in conference). Ursinus fell to 12-5-1 in the conference, good for a second-place finish.

Hopkins came out strong in the opening game, scoring 12 runs in the first four innings, and scoring another run in the fifth to extend its lead to 13-0.

Ursinus finally brought home two runs in the bottom of the sixth, but Hopkins responded by scoring two runs of its own in the top of the seventh. In all, Hopkins yielded only one run in the final half inning to secure a 15-3 victory in the first game of the twin bill.

The offensive surge was a team effort, as eight out of the nine starters got at least one hit in the game. The Blue Jays also smashed eight doubles en route to registering a total of 23 hits in this game.

Sophomore second baseman Mike Spiciarich went 4-for-4 and scored four times in the game. Sophomore third baseman Paul Long also had a 4-for-4 day, scoring twice and driving in five runs. Sophomore first baseman Mike Durgala went 4-for-5 with three runs scored and two RBI.

The pitching was stellar, as it has

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10

Hopkins upsets North Carolina Tar Heels, 12-2



ELEKTRA CARRAS/NEWS-LETTER

Senior midfielder Erinn Dennis prepares to receive a pass as she evades an opposing defensive player.

BY MARISA BALDWIN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

After experiencing its share of ups and downs this spring, the Johns Hopkins Women's Lacrosse team opened some eyes this week. The Lady Jays won three games, most notably a huge upset over No. 14 ranked University of North Carolina. In the beautiful and sunny spring weather on Sunday April 27, the No. 19 Blue Jays definitively

creamed the UNC, 12-2.

This represented a reversal of roles for the teams, as the Tar Heels had just as soundly beaten the Jays in each of the past several years when these two squads had faced each other, making the victory for Hopkins that much sweeter.

"In all of my four years here, we haven't had a big win like this when we upset the higher seed, not to mention a veteran powerhouse like UNC who we lose to every year we

play them," said senior captain and goalie Jen McDonald (five saves). "They may not be in the top five as they have been in the past, but they are still ranked above us, and we still beat them by ten goals - that is no fluke."

Early on, it seemed as if the Heels were assuming the normal role of dominator as Nicki Barnes scored on a free position shot just 40 seconds into the game. But junior midfielder Heidi Pearce (four goals,

two assists) immediately answered, scoring an unassisted goal to begin what would be a prolific scoring day for her.

Pearce's tally was quickly followed by two more Lady Jays' goals: one from freshman attacker Meagan Voight, assisted by freshman midfielder Kelley Putnam, and the

HOME	12
Hopkins	
VISITOR	2
North Carolina	

other from senior attacker Liz Holland (three goals), who converted a feed from junior midfielder Kate Barcomb.

This gave the Lady Jays a 3-1 advantage, but UNC climbed back within one when Brooke Young scored with about 10 minutes left in the half. The goal would prove to be the Tar Heels' last, as the Jays went on to score nine more unanswered goals in the rout.

Senior attacker Meghan Burnett (two goals, one assist) made the score 4-2 when she made an impressive behind the back shot off a feed from Pearce.

Barcomb scored with five minutes left to play in the half off a feed from freshman attacker Sarah Walsh, extending the lead to 5-2 going into the second half.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



VADIM GRETCHOUGHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

Senior outfielder Jay Cleri slaps hands with junior infielder Tim Casale.

The B Section

FEATURES, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE! • MAY 1, 2003

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER

Quote
of the Week

"Having Cuba serve again on the human rights commission is like putting Al Capone in charge of bank security."

—Press Secretary Ari Fleischer



THEBUZZ

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF
WHAT'S INSIDE SECTION B

YEAR IN REVIEW

It's been a dynamic year in the news and we've got a wrap-up of the hottest stories, on BoE, CUE, performing arts groups and risk management. Also, Charles Donefer gives his rendition of this year's Best & Worst. • B2-B3

FEATURES

This is your last chance to get some sex advice before the summer break. Be sure to catch our columnist's last foray into a topic few at Hopkins know much about. Plus, kids spending summer in the classroom and the joys of the Pep Band. • B4

A quick preview of Homecoming will surely help you out this weekend. Also, a reporter goes undercover to rediscover life as a pre-frosh and our last Hot at Hopkins of the year. Did you make the cut? • B5

A & E

Courtney Rice previews this summer's most anticipated films, and Andy Moskowitz takes a look at DBH's upcoming Arthur Miller production. Plus, reviews of Witness' final showcase and the latest Pete Yorn album. • B6

We pick the past year's hits and misses in film, TV, music and Hopkins theatre. Plus, Martin Marks' final Out and About • B7

Zainab Cheema tackles the allure of sci-fi blockbusters. Plus, reviews on the new thriller *Identity* and the upcoming romantic comedy *Down With Love*. • B8

CALENDAR

Tune into this week's calendar for a look at Homecoming this weekend. Be sure to read up on the Fiji Islander and Freshmen and Alumni weekends too. Finally, don't forget to read through for some specially featured WJHU radio shows sure to rock and roll your world. • B10-11

Orchids root physics professor Robbins in reality



NATHAN BATES/NEWS-LETTER

Robbins has been growing orchids both at home and his office for over 16 years.

BY FRANCESCA C. HANSEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Professor Mark Robbins went to Brazil looking to research semiconductors. Instead, he came back with what he describes as a "dangerous habit." Robbins began collecting orchids 16 years ago, and his affair with the flowering plants has only grown.

"There was a period around '91-'92 when my collection doubled every six months, he said. "When it hit 200, I knew it was an addictive habit."

As graceful orchid blossoms reach toward the window of his office, and a bouquet of blue ribbons are piled together on the wall, this physics professor has clearly taken orchids from

a hobby to a passion.

Last Thursday in a small church hall, an audience of 50 listened attentively to Robbins' orchid growing suggestions. The presentation, covering everything from humidity to growing under fluorescent bulbs, was, according to local grower Helen Huntington, "One of the best I have ever heard."

Chuckles and nods rippled through the audience as Robbins relayed his personal anecdotes and growing philosophies. "I take a Darwinian approach to growing. If it doesn't survive, then I shouldn't be growing it," he said.

The beige meeting hall was flanked by tables awash with the colorful flowering plants, a good percentage of

which were Robbins' creations or prize-winners. In hues of red, pink, yellow or even green, from miniature species with blooms no larger than a watermelon seed, to upward twisting palm-sized sculptural flowers, Robbins grows a diverse number of the species *Orchidaceae*. With several local show awards and two American Orchid Society decorations, Robbins has cemented his reputation as a grower in the Maryland orchid community.

"I have known Mark for 10 or 12 years and I've never known him to do anything that wasn't superlative," said local orchid grower Barry Woolf of Falston, Md.

In addition to growing hundreds of orchids from the basement of his home, Robbins' hands have created new types of orchid. The small, pink veined flower he displayed on the desktop of his computer was the result of a scientific crossbreeding process, he said.

The first step to producing a new plant begins with extracting an orchid seed from the plant's fungus, placing it in an agar dish, and cultivating it until growth, a process not too different from many students' regular lab work, he said.

"Someone with skills in growing cultures in lab might find it fun to try orchids instead. Although, I don't know if their thesis advisor would object."

After experimenting with crossbreeding, his attempts have yielded him a blooming flower in an unusually rapid five years, earning him an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society.

"I was incredibly lucky that I got one to bloom," he said. "It's not at all

normal." Named after his second daughter, the orchid *Papheopedium Rose Tapestry*, "Catherine," joins a "Thomas" variety he created in 1987, the second plant to be named after his children framed on the wall above his desk. "I wonder if I'll get [my children] to water them someday," he said.

While orchids may be best known for the large purple or white flowers on the wrists of prom queens everywhere, Robbins' experiments with the plants are only representative of a larger nationwide increase in orchid growing. He estimates there were a million square feet of growing area in New York City and New Jersey alone dedicated to the production of these formal flowers, whereas in the past 20 years, orchids have become more mainstream, or even trendy. As evident in the movie *Adaptation*, there is even a small cult of an orchid community.

While orchids have become an obsession primarily in the orchids' natural habitat of southern Florida (and home of the American Orchid Society), Robbins says the trend has expanded nationwide, thanks to advances in breeding technology. "Cloning has made better quality orchids for everyone," he said, pointing to the *Phaenopsis* or "moth orchids" on the growing table behind his desk. These broad leaved plants with round, full blooms were

some of the more difficult plants to obtain in the past, Robbins said, but with cloning, *Phaenopsis* orchids are the most popular plants on the market.

But when he is not immersed in the orchid jungle of his office or basement, Robbins is working on the "pulling apart of proteins," at Hopkins physics labs. Robbins was the third professor to join the University's initiative in Condensed Matter Physics in 1986.

With experience from Exxon's corporate research lab, the Newton, Mass. native says he is grounded in "nontraditional physics." It is precisely the nature of his specialty that drives his interest in orchid growing.

"For me, my work is theoretical, it's very abstract," Robbins said. "[Orchid growing] gives me my physical contact with reality."

For students seeking to make such a contact and develop their green thumb, Robbins wants to emphasize the compatibility of orchid growing with student life. Able to be grown in a dorm window and with flowers lasting from 3-6 months, orchids could grace the windowsills of college students everywhere. Even if Hopkins students opt not to let these plants become a passion, it's clear that orchids can be much more than just a prom corsage.



NATHAN BATES/NEWS-LETTER

Robbins' crossbred *Papheopedium* is named for his daughter, Catherine.

Barry Levinson to headline eclectic Maryland Film Festival

BY ISHWARIA CHANDRAMOHAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The summer months of 2003 are a veritable magnet for lovers of big-budget blockbusters, their sequels and the sequels to the sequels. However, if you're not one of the masses feverishly holding your breath for *Terminator 3* to hit theaters, or if you simply want to nurture the cinephile in you, cart yourself over to the 2003 Maryland Film Festival.

Running this weekend, May 1-4, primarily at the Charles Theater (with a small number of showings at the Senator Theater and the Walters Art Museum), the film festival features independent works from local, national and international filmmakers. Over 50 feature and short works are presented over four days and nights starting this Thursday, May 1.

Director Barry Levinson kicks off the opening night festivities with a showing of the Marlon Brando/Eva Marie Saint classic, *On the Waterfront*. After a run as an Emmy-award winning writer on *The Carol Burnett Show*, Levinson directed a series of notable films, including *Good Morning, Vietnam* and *Rain Man*, for which he won the 1988 Best Director Academy Award. A Baltimore native, Levinson returns to the Maryland Film Festival — where he was the host of the inaugural festival in 1999

— to discuss a film that inspired him as a filmmaker. Directed by Elia Kazan, *Waterfront* is one essential screening. The showing is followed by the Opening Night Party at Belvedere Square Market. Tickets to opening night are \$35.

Maryland and national notables serve as guest hosts throughout the weekend. Governor Robert Ehrlich begins the first full day of films by introducing the critically-acclaimed Jim Sheridan film *In the Name of the Father*. The film features Daniel Day-Lewis as Gerry Conlon, a petty burglar falsely imprisoned for an IRA pub bombing, and Emma Thompson as a British attorney who works with Conlon over 14 years to establish his innocence. *In the Name of the Father* became an instant classic, collecting numerous critics' accolades and eight Academy Award nominations, including acting nods for Day-Lewis and Thompson.

Also on Friday: John Waters of *Pink Flamingos* fame takes the stage at 8 p.m. to present Argentinean filmmaker Gaspar Noe's 1998 work, *Seul Contre Tous* (*I Stand Alone*). Written and directed by Noe, the grim film traces the life of a butcher, who upon his release from prison attempts to reconcile with the daughter he had abandoned. The festival warns that this disturbing and shocking, yet powerful movie is not for the squeamish or weak-hearted.

Equally powerful is Noe's second film, *Irreversible*, which according to festival programmers, "tells the story of two horrible crimes backwards in a way that allows the audience to find a kind of redemption in ordinary life."

Saturday also features a series of short programs with themes including *Crossroads*, where characters are in situations where they are forced to make critical choices, and *Meditations*, a "thoughtful collection of films that transport the viewer to a variety of times and places."

Journalist Margaret Carlson highlights the final day of the festival as the guest host of *Notorious*, an Alfred Hitchcock masterpiece. Carlson, currently a panelist on CNN's *Inside Politics* and *The Capital Gang*, became in 1994 the first female columnist in *TIME* magazine's history to extensively covered four presidential elections. No stranger to politics, Carlson presents *Notorious*, where Cary Grant stars as Devlin, a government agent who enlists Alicia Huberman (Ingrid Bergman) to spy on her former lover, Alex Sebastian (Claude Rains), who is purported to be a Nazi agent.

Also on Sunday's slate of films is *Baltimore & BaadAsssss Cinema* and *Afghan Stories*, an examination of the

effect of perpetual war on the Afghan people.

Over four days, the Maryland Film Festival brings numerous noteworthy films to the Baltimore community.

So take a break from the Homecoming festivities or get a friend to hold your place in line for the midnight showing of *X-Men 2* and head over to the Charles Theater for hard-

hitting, culturally-relevant films.

Individual student tickets are \$8 with valid ID. For ticket reservations, visit <http://www.mdfilmfest.com>.

Egyptian Sun Dancers



NINA LOPATINA/NEWS-LETTER

Ann de Leon, Yen-Wen Chau, Kimberly Rosendorf and Martha Quirk entice Shriver with belly dancing.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Thespian action heats up this year as productions improve in quality

Something amazing happened this past year: Hopkins theater and performing arts were suddenly taken seriously. And no, I am not referring to Theatre Hopkins, the professional company housed on campus. From Witness to Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theatre to Modern Dance, the past year was a veritable revolution for the performing arts on our modest campus. Along the way, notable productions and developments meticulously contributed to the new image. Unfortunately, beneath the surface, glaring problems remain.

The good news is that the improvements are significant. The creation of the Arts Certificate was a considerable step in the right direction to establishing a solid community, awarding the talented and dedicated, while working to eventually establish a theater program. Collaboration between groups and institutions has benefited all parties, as witnessed by the strong relationship between Peabody and the Barnstormers in *The Secret Garden*, not to mention last month's dance concert which featured, among others, the Modern Dance Company and The Ladybirds. Furthermore, SAC Chair Elise Roecker claims "dance is starting to emerge as a stronger presence on campus," and I'd have to agree with her. With the emergence of several dance organizations, including the Egyptian Sun Dancers and JOSH, the energy and the motivation is there, but the groups need administrative and student support.

Sara Marten, the SAC Performing Arts liaison, says, "the quality of the [theater] shows has definitely improved." Admittedly so, many productions in the past year were well worth seeing, including the surprise hit from Witness Theatre, *The Blue Cranberry Hour*. Run on a shoestring budget, the play succeeded where others have failed and was genuinely entertaining. The Barnstormers' *The Secret Garden*, a noble performance of the mature musical, was noteworthy for the casting which including talented

vocal majors from the Peabody Conservatory, namely students who could actually sing.

Aside from creative work, the number of productions is down from previous years. This can be blamed on the deterioration of Arellano Theatre in Levering Union. Always considered a joke, this near-historical stage once held a lively production of The Who's *Tommy* only two years ago. Now, with the addition of the Swirnow Theatre in the Mattin Center, the larger groups have moved onto finer, more ambitious productions. The Arellano Theatre, however, has become the black sheep of the Hopkins theater community. The space is suitably intimate for smaller productions, such as Throat Culture and Witness, but groups are no longer allowed to build any sets in the space and only minimal props can be stored backstage. Also, the administration gave the old production room to Orientation, severely limiting storage space for props and costumes. Without sufficient, permanent storage ar-

JONATHAN GROCE

GROCELY
OVERRATED

reas, the theater groups are crippled.

Rehearsal space remains a serious difficulty as well. There are simply not enough sufficient rooms on campus large enough to house an entire a capella group and assorted orchestral members. Imagine rehearsing a musical with full accompaniment in a room with poor acoustics. With multiple groups competing for the coveted Swirnow, rehearsals, the Second Decade Society room and the Glass Pavilion are quickly booked as well.

Many dance and a capella concerts are held in Shriver, and groups are curiously forced to pay \$250 for maintenance to remove and replace a



COURTESY OF KRISTOPHER JANSMA
Theater was hot in 2002-2003: Shown above are Loren Dunn and Jerry Wu in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

shell used for the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra. Such fees are beyond ridiculous, penalizing the performing groups and their limited budgets. For an institution with considerable financial revenue, this remains an eyesore on the Hopkins arts community.

Arguing for more funding is expected here, but perhaps I should address the inherent problem here. Over 15 groups are registered with Student Council, and the Student Activities Commission allocates a considerable proportion of relatively limited funding to performing arts groups. As expected, the majors (JHU Band and The Barnstormers) have more influence and structural support to request more productions. With so many groups competing for space, perhaps we should either limit the number of productions per group until a stronger fiscal system is established or build a new theater for groups to rehearse, while not simultaneously taxing the current arts funding. In addition, theater, dance and performing alumni need to give to spe-

cific arts programs, rather than the University's construction funds (unless there is a proposal to break ground on a new stage).

Without a department for the performing arts, any changes are bound to be severely modest. The University is not likely to financially nourish the marked improvements and developments with the support it deserves. After the dedication of the Mattin Center in 2001, the University appeared satisfied with its support of the arts. Arellano needs to be demolished soon, but in its place, a new theater must be built immediately, preferably over the summer. Even if the theater groups lose a semester of Arellano, the future benefits of a redesigned theater space would be enormous.

While I hold my breath, the performing groups need to respond to the high bar raised by the exceptional productions of the past year. I expect only the best from Hopkins theater and dance companies, and only the best will result in the actualization of the ideal arts revolution.

CUE Report

...But will any of it be implemented?

BY ISHAI MOOREVILLE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Founded as an institution focused on graduate-level academics, Johns Hopkins has long given undergraduate education less attention than its peer universities. There were high hopes for changing this in January

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2002, when President William Brody and Provost Steven Knapp created the Commission on Undergraduate Education (CUE), the mission of which was to come up with specific recommendations to improve the undergraduate experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

CUE, headed by Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs Paula Burger, released an interim report on January 31. The report set forth a laundry list of recommendations to improve the University in areas such as academics, advising and career support, diversity and student life.

"We have broad support for most of our recommendations from all constituencies," said Burger.

After the interim report was released to the wider community, the commission solicited feedback on its proposals through numerous presentations to students, faculty, deans, parents and others. Their responses have been reviewed and incorporated into the final report that CUE will release sometime before the end of May.

The only tangible change so far as a result of CUE has been the creation of a new position, the vice-provost for undergraduate education. The post is currently being filled by Burger in addition to her regular duties. After the final report is sent to the President and the Board of Trustees, Burger will be charged with implementing the various proposals, ranging from building new housing to creating more seminar-style classes.

Some proposals have garnered nearly unanimous support. One is the creation of a Baltimore Scholars program that will grant full scholarships to students accepted to Hopkins from Baltimore City Public Schools. Another is ensuring upperclassmen have access to "cap-stone" classes and projects in their respective majors.

"The interim report has put several important but neglected issues on the front burner of the University community's attention," said CUE member and Classics Professor Matthew Roller.

One of the most daring recommendations calls for the creation of new student housing so that within ten years, on-campus housing would be guaranteed for all four years.

Board of Elections

Politics hamper BoE

BY LIZ STEINBERG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

While it's been rough for the Board of Elections (BoE), until last month you could say the same for every person who has had to comply with their campaign rules.

If it wasn't low candidate turnout, it was candidate disqualifications. If it wasn't disqualifications, it was Board infighting. If it wasn't infighting, it was a lack of Student Council (StuCo) support.

Internal disagreements arose between the BoE chairs, Mary Keough and Judy Tomkins, and its members. "There were two different ideologies that were present in the BoE," said Manish Gala, student body president. That of the chairs "was adherent to old precedent, while the other was much more outcome-based and much more rules based," said Gala.

Meanwhile, the BoE-StuCo relationship was "very poor," said Gala. As Eric Wolkoff told StuCo while a candidate for next year's board, the BoE has a record of who votes — and not all StuCo members were voting.

StuCo members complained the BoE wasn't keeping them up-to-date. All five Executive Board members learned about the first Executive

"In my view the single most important [proposal] is the recommendation to find a way, over time, to offer University housing to every undergraduate," said Roller. "This will be expensive and complicated, but I think that the community-building consequences of making University housing available to every student who wants it, including upperclassmen, would be absolutely huge."

The most controversial recommendations involved schedule changes.

The first proposal is a move from a Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday and Thursday-Friday schedule to a Monday-Wednesday-Friday, Tuesday-Thursday schedule, in an effort to spread out classes more evenly and reduce class conflicts. This was met with some disapproval from students. Four of the five Hopkins divisions with undergraduates supported the change: Engineering, Peabody, Nursing and SPSBE. The only dissenting vote has come from the school of Arts and Sciences, though the proposal will still be included in the final report. Such a change will not be implemented anytime soon, says Burger, since it will require a more thorough review by the University.

Another recommendation called for lengthening the semester from 13 weeks to 14 weeks to allow more time for students to absorb their material. This proposed change was opposed strongly by the faculty, due to a difference in opinion on the standard length and concern for the Intersession period. That proposal will not be included in the final CUE report.

Several new and revised recommendations will appear in the final report. A new proposal calls for the building partnerships with Charles Village to improve the neighborhood surroundings. Another calls for more space for collaborative learning and student study groups. Still another will recommend creating better classroom learning environments and strengthening the course evaluation system.

Burger says the priorities of the CUE report include creating more small group experiences, enhancing the residential system and paying more attention to issues of diversity in the student body and faculty.

"A real priority for me is to continue the conversation on undergraduate education," said Burger.

She hopes that funds from the current \$2 billion capital campaign will be used to back some of the CUE report's initiatives.

Comprising 42 members, CUE includes faculty such as professors Steven David, Gregory Ball, Bruce Hamilton and S. William Leslie. Students sitting on the committee included senior Amy Brokl, senior Manish Gala, senior Audrey Henderson and sophomore Charles Reynier.

Apathy: A Hopkins stalwart fades away

Apathy wasn't the leading activity on campus this year. All I've ever heard about campus groups is "You'll never see that. Students are too apathetic." For a long time, that was true. Apathy and Orgo defined Hopkins.

Something, however, was different this year. One could sense it from



RAPHAEL SCHWEBEL
KOREN
COLUMNIST

the very beginning, when the MSE Symposium began the year with a controversy. It wasn't much, just some OLE members handing out flyers, but the whiff of controversy had been missing from this campus.

It smelled good. And it only got better.

New groups and activities started up. WJHU, the long-dormant Hopkins radio station, began broadcasting again. John Astin began a new theater company on campus, called the Hopkins Studio Players. Elise Roecker, chair of the Student Activities Commission (SAC), said that 20 new student groups, including some reactivated ones, joined the SAC this year.

Roecker pointed to her ledger book as a sign of the increased student activity. Last year, she said, funding requests filled three sheets. This year, funding requests nearly filled five.

Energy once cooped up inside the lab or the library seemed to explode out as supposedly disinterested students engaged the outside world. The fall elections brought a buzz to this campus I haven't seen in my four years here. College Republicans, College Democrats and other political groups organized and got people excited. Those who wanted to have a voice found it.

We actually had war protests this year, with people at them. Campus activism wasn't a joke called SLAC. It was a really good audience at an impromptu performance of *Lysistrata*, attended even by students with papers to write or finals to study for. We actually had students choosing politics over Orgo!

Dave Klein, president of the College Democrats, speculates that the political side of this campus has been there all along, and that previous lack of leadership, at least in his group, had been responsible for its absence from campus. He says more committed leaders provided an outlet for somewhat committed students.

More groups. More funding requests. Where's all this energy coming from?

People have their own theories. Roecker thinks it's because admissions is doing its job. People who are coming here want to be here, and want to be a part of student life.

Reinforcing the idea that new blood may be largely responsible, Klein, the Democrats' president, points out that his organization is almost entirely freshmen and sophomores, with the only three juniors residing on the executive board.

New blood, though, I think is just one side of the story. Ravi Kavaseri, president of the senior class, emphatically disagrees with the notion that new blood that is solely driving this new spirit. He points out that many student leaders are seniors and juniors.

Kavaseri also points to a new attitude from the administration which he says invigorated students this year. He lavished praise on

Jeff Groden-Thomas, the new Director of Student Involvement, calling him an "incredible asset." Roecker also described him as "hands-on." Both say he has brought new focus and dedication to his work. Kavaseri points to Groden-Thomas's appointment, as well as the Committee for Undergraduate Education (CUE) report, as a sign that the administration as a whole has made a commitment to undergraduate life.

So the picture boils down to this. New people and invigorated student

and administrative leadership made for an incredibly active campus. But I don't think that fully answers the question.

A spark existed this year that wasn't there before. The trauma that was Sept. 11 showed us an unavoidable world hungry for change. With characteristic Hopkins determination, students have worked through art, through technology and through politics. We want to make even a small difference, and this campus is much more alive as a result. It smells wonderful.

Can you dig it?



NAT DUCA/FILE PHOTO

Most people didn't bother to dig out, instead choosing to leave the car behind and walk in the middle of the street during the record-breaking President's Weekend blizzard. Classes were cancelled for two days while students took to the streets for sledding, snowman construction and other seasonal fun. The effects of the monster storm, which dropped over two feet of snow on parts of Baltimore and caused Governor Robert Ehrlich to close state roads for several hours, lingered on for weeks as the city gradually cleared side streets and citizens shoveled their cars out of their snowy tombs.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Breakin' the law, breakin' the law ...



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/NEWS-LETTER

The brickwork on campus can't support the weight of large trucks, such as those that Spring Fair vendors use to transport their equipment, according to administrators. But the University seemed to have found a solution to that problem when it wanted to plant new trees in the recently-renovated Levering Plaza. This truck was parked on the brick pathways for hours — all it takes is a little plywood. It looks like administrators have some explaining to do to those involved with Spring Fair and Commencement.

Risk Management

BY MAANY PEYVAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A hundred freshmen signed up for a club that couldn't hold activities last fall.

The Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club (JHOC) may have had a table at the annual SAC fair, but its account was frozen, its rights to use University equipment and vans were taken

News Analysis

away and all its planned activities were suspended. The suspension came as a bit of shock to JHOC and its director, senior Robert Theobald. "While some action needed to be taken, this was more severe, and I would have appreciated some warning," Theobald told the *News-Letter* in September.

In truth the decision to temporarily shut down JHOC came as a surprise to many from an office few had known existed: Risk Management.

The department may be located on the Hopkins Eastern Campus, but its reach and affect on the Homewood campus has never been so apparent. Risk Management's newly appointed director Lawrence Foley met with director of Recreational Sports Bill

Harrington during the summer, and after lengthy discussions decided to suspend JHOC until an adequate review of their safety practices and qualifications could be ascertained.

The decision was sudden because the danger to students was very real, explained Foley. "If you see a dangerous condition, you have to take steps to eliminate the danger," he said. "We are talking about the issue of life safety, safety violations, bodily injuries, etc."

JHOC seemed dissatisfied with Risk Management's decision. "I think the suspension was unwarranted," said trip coordinator, junior Emilie Romeiser. "They didn't give us much direction of how to solve the problem. We were just told it was risky. Without any direction to fix risk, it's hard to do anything."

Harrington explained Risk Management's position. "JHOC was the first club targeted by Risk Management since the club was viewed as running activities with a higher element of risk than others. There is more risk when caving or canoeing opposed to playing chess, for example."

Foley later echoed that sentiment. "That group [JHOC] was probably unique in that it had a combination of exposures in what is generally considered a high risk activity and they also have a large vehicle component."

Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell was brought in to mediate the discus-

sion between Risk Management and JHOC. Administrators gave JHOC a checklist with requirements to fulfill before it could be reinstated, and requested a 10 to 12 page proposal with descriptions of the guidelines and protocols to ensure the members' and participants' safety.

After meetings with administrators, JHOC seemed to understand Risk Management's position. "The procedures dealing with Risk Management are understandable," Trip Leader and junior Holly Martin said. "We need to appease risk management ... by showing the club's competency and policy."

JHOC has taken the steps to satisfy the wishes of Risk Management and took their first trip of the school year in March. "We've had some great conversations with JHOC and outdoor groups," said Foley. "The current situation will give all of us a much greater comfort level. A lot of good work has come out of negotiations. I think they're making great progress."

Harrington hinted that JHOC was not the only student that would come under scrutiny by Risk Management. "The Outdoors Club just happens to be the first target now," he said. "There will be implications for other groups." Neither Harrington nor Foley would mention specific groups that would be targeted, but Foley suggested that any

group that used University vehicles could be placed under scrutiny.

JHOC served as an example to student groups who met with administrators earlier in the year concerned about the use of Arellano Theater. Various groups met with the Office of Student Involvement and decided that fire and safety regulations would not allow students to build props in Arellano or store them for more than a few days. Though Risk Management had no direct involvement in the Arellano decision, the department's broadened scope had been felt.

Foley claims recent actions taken by his office should not be considered unusual. "The issues being looked at are not certainly unique to Hopkins," he said. "These issues are constantly addressed. As with any exposure to danger you have an obligation to ensure that exposure is properly managed."

In the future, Foley hopes to eventually form a committee composed of students, faculty and administrators to better communication with student groups. He also notes that students have a better perspective to safe and unsafe practices on their campus.

JHOC will have a table at next year's SAC fair but with Risk Management's emergence as an administrative voice in student life, no one is sure which groups will join them.

BEST AND WORST

Year after year, you've come to expect the Best and Worst to offer you, the reader, a definitive summary of all that was great and all that we hate from the previous academic year.

From record-setting blizzards to record-setting numbers of disqualified StuCo candidates, it's been a wild ride. Let's take a look at the highlights and lowlights of 2002-2003.

Band (national)

Best (tie): Weezer. Sure, it's the choice of 14-year-old girls in malls from Redondo to Ronkonkoma, but *Pinkerton* has to be one of the best albums ever. Maybe it's not the music itself as much as Jason singing along to "Across the Sea" at the top of his lungs.

The White Stripes. *Elephant* is even better than *White Blood Cells*. The Stripes are the best thing to come out of Detroit since the GTO.

Worst: John Mayer. Your body may be a wonderland, but your album is a complete freakshow. Someone should tell this guy that pop-folk for yuppie kids in white hats and Jeep Grand Cherokee Limiteds lost its allure the 150th time we heard "Ants Marching" on the radio. Give it up, Johnny.

Band (local)

Best: Donegal X-Press. They're the Irish Rock band that doesn't have the mayor in it.

Worst: Anyone playing the Beer Garden. If you can't get a booking playing *Police* covers at Dizzy Izzy's and you get sneers singing for change on the corner, sign up for Spring Fair.

Bar

Best: Ottobar. Aside from being the exclusive focus of most "Out and About" columns in the Arts section, this is the one bar in walking distance that will serve Brooklyn Lager. At the Ottobar, you can groove to New Order on Britpop night with wannabe Brooklynite hipsters who secretly loathe your preppy ass.

Worst: Bar Baltimore. Skankified. Skankirific. The Axis of Skank. Any woman who goes there should be prepared to be assaulted, Roxbury-style, while Hopkins guys sit on the sidelines being ignored by the Dundalk trash. Did I mention that the place was skanky? *Special mention:* The thoroughly skanky PJs saved themselves from the dubious distinction of Worst Bar by being the only place to get a beer on President's Day. Good job, Jerry.

Building

Best: The Gatehouse. Hodson may have wiring up the wazoo and Barton may have a stargate (so I

hear), but where else, bathroom stalls aside, do they let you write on the walls? Ask *Zeniada* if they have a futon that has seen more action than the entire freshman class. If they tell you that they do, they're lying.

Worst: Garland Hall. The first impression most potential students get of this place is by far our ugliest building. The only way to screw things up more would be to have bitter *N-L* alum Tom Gutting give the tour.

Bumper Sticker

Worst: Believe. Believe what? That someone in city government will fix the streetlights or fill in the potholes? Puh-leeze.

Best: Be Evil. It's amazing what a pair of scissors and a sense of humor can do to a dumb anti-drug campaign.

Campus denizen

Best: That hottie who works out in the AC. It doesn't matter which one is your favorite — there are many to choose from depending on your preferences. Nothing beats watching those toned buns go up and down on the StairMaster. Thanks, Ralph S. O'Connor.

Worst (tie): Protestors and College Republicans. Giving a hoot about the world beyond your frat house is so 1968. Get with it, people.

Car

Best: The armored Cadillac on Guilford Ave. I suspect it's not entirely street legal, but this car is by far the most badass thing on four wheels.

Worst: Your SUV. If I wanted to know about your insecurity, I'd ask.

Change over the last four years

Best: New neighborhood businesses. When the Class of 2003 came here in 1999, there was no Tenpachi, no Record and Tape Traders, no Kinkos, and no Subway. I'll have a footlong sweet onion chicken teriyaki on hearty Italian. At least twice a week.

Worst: Depends on the definition of the word "change." If by "change" you mean physical modification or policy adjustment, there could be several: E-Level, wasteful I-Sites, a vain tribute in bricks to some anonymous donor, deflation of Spring Fair after two years in the campus equivalent of Siberia, the housing mess, or even the fact that when we got here, Bill Clinton was president and graduates were landing high-paying jobs without breaking a sweat.

If by "change," you mean a shift in the University's attitude towards undergrads, then there really hasn't been one. Window-dressing in the CUE Report aside, nothing has changed since the Class of 2000 was lecturing us about how great the Beach was. Recreation Center aside, when-

ever this school gets a little money to throw around, it always ends up in some project that inconveniences us and benefits nobody. Saying that in the face of state budget cuts, the University would act to save East Baltimore before Homewood doesn't help things either. It's not that we don't feel loved — we really don't care; it's that we feel as if we're being treated as an inconvenience.

Charles Village character

Best: The guy with the eyebrow ring at Eddie's Liquors. All the ladies have a secret crush on this guy. Maybe I should start looking into either eyebrow rings or a job in the retail liquor industry.

Worst: Crazy Mike. I'll be eating my words when his Neptunes-produced single, "Monkeys! Monkeys!" hits the top of the hip-hop charts.

Complaint about the Registrar

Best: Internal Server Error. The computers are as old as the secretaries.

Worst: They won't let me take Orgo and Micro Theory. Get a girlfriend, join the *News-Letter*, pick up a coke habit, anything.

Crime

Best: Indecent Exposure. Hey, Maany Peyvan has a nice ass.

Worst: Throwing water balloons. Get caught for this and you should be prepared for some serious spooning in the cell the morning after having things done to you that you've only done to your pledges.

Diner

Best: Waffle House in Aberdeen. You can have your hash browns seven different ways at any hour of the day or night. Just a half an hour away if you drive like a maniac. The unlimited cokes and artery-unfriendly grits don't hurt either.

Worst: Paper Moon. Even if it is the only game in town at 4 a.m., I'd rather just eat ramen at home if it means I don't have to pay \$15 for mediocre food served in a funhouse-from-hell atmosphere filled with spaced-out ravers and cops.

Drug

Best: All of them, at once. How about some fear and loathing in Brody's pool?

Worst: Heroin. One in nine Baltimoreans can be wrong.

Electronic device

Best: Ask Sarah Gibson. Everyone who reads this paper knows exactly what I'm talking about.

Worst: I-Sites. Message to President Brody: We could be the first college to install bronze statues of flying baboons in 27 locations across campus, but that wouldn't make it a good idea.

Major

Best: Political Science. They taught me how to use the word "cleavage" in a context that won't get me slapped.

Worst: Economics. If you turn to page 23 of my manuscript, you'll see that this major is only easy if you're a lacrosse player cheating off your girlfriend.

Medical Excuse

Best: SARS. How cool would it be to tell your professor that your paper had to wait because you had the *in* disease for 2003?

Worst: Food Poisoning. Niwana, C&C Carryout, Orient Express — take your pick. Most local restaurants have more parasites than employees.

Newly-active campus entity

Best: WJHU. What this school needs are more students in rooms without windows futzing around with electronics.

Worst: Risk Management. We're bracing for the day they come into the Gatehouse — they'll take away the power tools and tell us we can't paddle the new editors.

Pick-up line

Best: "Nice shoes, wanna...?" The day this line works for anyone is the day I eat my foot.

Worst: "No blood for oil!" Unless, of course, you want to pick up some hairy-pitted chick who's into soy products and street theater. Or Jeremy Tully.

Phrase heard around the Gatehouse

Best: "Chicken 'n Biscuits!" Never has something as simple as just discussing fried chicken perked up fatigued editors at 3 a.m. We are truly pathetic people.

Worst: "Stop [expletive deleted] the dog!" We don't need to know your sexual proclivities, Mike.

Place to do it

Best: The roof of Bloomberg. I can't wait for all the e-mails saying "Not that you'd know." You're right, but a man can dream.

Worst: CS Lab. No matter what hour you and your partner go there, you'll have 20 pasty dorks salivating while watching the two of you do things they've only seen on the Internet.

Political Cause

Best: Free Tibet. Nobody should ever have to pay for a Tibet.

Worst: Complaining about the sex column. If God loves you so much, why didn't he give you a sense of humor?

Post-graduation plans

Best: Take a fifth year. Better yet, just take a fifth of vodka.

Worst: A job. It turns out that nobody cares what you did for your college newspaper. Anyway, all of your friends are unemployed and living at home until the recession ends anyway — you can have a sleepover.

Snow day activity

Best: Being dragged behind a car on a sled. If I had a hitch and four-wheel drive, I'd have been careening down University Parkway like nobody's business.

Worst: Working on the thesis. I have officially labeled myself "Biggest Nerd on Campus," which is no mean feat around here.

Squirrel-related Incident

Best: Breakdown into the Country Bear Jamboree. And Bloomberg thought we wouldn't figure out that the squirrels on campus were his compact animatronic spying devices. I figured it out when their radio frequencies got crossed with the popular "Yesterland" show, and one of them started playing on a moonshine jug.

Worst: A dead squirrel being carried up a tree by another squirrel. When Bloomberg technology goes horribly, horribly awry.

Student Group

Best: Film Society. You thought

I'd pick the Board of Elections or something? No disqualification-junkie can cut it up on the floor at Ottobar like these guys.

Worst: The Carrollton Record. An orgy of warmongering, flag-waving, preaching to the choir and crimes against grammar, that paper is nothing more than 12 pages of Steve Park trying to be a minor-league Dinesh D'Souza.

Vending Machine

Best: Condom Dispenser in Levering. It advertises "Savage Bliss" brand condoms. Sure, it's not exactly PC, but neither is getting busy in the Glass Pavilion.

Worst: The Pepsi machine in the library. With all of those Diet Pepsi buttons, you'd think that one of them wouldn't be sold out. Just once, won't some joker stock it with High Life?

Way to increase student participation

Best: Disqualify as many StuCo Candidates as possible. It's time the unpopular kids got a shot at running things.

Worst: Disqualify as many StuCo Candidates as possible. On the other hand, popular kids are better human beings with a greater capacity for leadership, right?

Way to get drunk for under \$4

Best: Get on the 'Train. The choice of wines across this great nation. Four out of five incoherent people in front of RoFo agree.

Worst: Let your TA buy you a drink. It's JHU's last taboo for a reason — nobody wants to hear "who's your TA?" during sex.

— By Charles Donefer with contributions from Jed Borod, Evan Elias, Martin Marks and Raphael Schwebel-Koren



CHARLES DONEFER/NEWS-LETTER

Best Car, by a landslide.

FEATURES

Staying true to yourself Pep Band helps keep lax tradition alive

I've talked to you of blowjobs and anal sex, the difficulty of orgasm and the joys of the vibrator, and the problems of sexuality, for the straight, the gay and the in-between. But we've barely scratched the surface of what can go down among consenting adults once the lights go down. Polyamory, rubber feet fetishes, pornography (watched alone or in tandem), orgies and threesomes, exhibitionism, maple syrup, voyeurism, the frightening specter of pregnancy, the Kama Sutra. I could carry on like this for pages. But it's up to you all to discover for yourselves what's out there, and how much fun you can have with it.

Everyone discovers his sexual self at different times in life. I figured out that I liked sex before I knew it was sex. Then, I later connected the joys of orgasm to my never-ending quest for the perfect crush on the perfect boy. Was this for better or worse? I can't say. If I'd known then that what I felt for boys, and what I felt when I was making out with them in my basement, was perfectly natural, maybe I wouldn't have those nagging thoughts of sluttness in the back of my mind now. But then again, if I'd known I was normal then, I wouldn't be here writing this column, spreading the word of good sex and the purity of pleasure that comes from an honest, open sexual encounter.

Each person has to find out for him or herself the sexual path to take. My critics will take me to task for speaking so bluntly about sex and sexuality. But if they really read what I was saying, they would realize I support their decisions to not discuss sex or abstain from having it until marriage just as much as I respect the decisions of my readers who are thinking about how to please their partners or how to understand their bodies. The only way to being a happy, fulfilled sexual being is to go after what you want, do what you're comfortable with and remove yourself from situations where you aren't comfortable. It's really pretty all-purpose advice. I try to apply it to my own life as much as I can.

If we are all honest with ourselves, we can find out if we have a singularly large sex beast just waiting to swallow the world inside of us or a smaller sex beast just looking for that perfect partner for that perfect shag. When you start experimenting with the partner you've found, or the partner you're thinking about when you curl up by yourself at night, you may discover you really like to snuggle against your partner's stomach and listen to their stomach growl, or that you really like to snuggle against their armpit and give it some little nibbles.

The only thing that is stopping you from having wonderful sex as often as you like it is yourself — those hang-ups you may have about what the woman living next door will think of the parade of partners leaving your house in the morning, or the ones about how maybe you just aren't attractive enough to nail that hottie you've been scoping in the computer lab, or the ones about how you just don't have enough experience to have the guts to get out there and collect some more. I'm sorry, my friends, but you just have to let go of all that. I know these insecurities can be hard to kick — who wants to get rid of something they know so well and have lived contentedly with for so long?

Once you get yourself unattached from those little uglies in your head telling you that you and your desires are unacceptable, you'll probably start wondering what some of those things I mentioned above are. Polyamory? Voyeurism? If we were talking about some things other than sex and love, all these strange little terms would be familiar and easy to find out more about. But, unfortunately, sex is still a bit taboo in this day. You can't just go to the library and check out a copy of the *Kama Sutra*, *The Joy of Sex*, or a copy of *Out*. Well, you could, but this isn't the way you want to figure out your sexuality, in a public forum with a squirmy librarian uncomfortably checking out your choices. Fortunately for us, there is the Internet and an ever-growing collection of sex columnists and call-in shows. As G.I. Joe was ever so fond of reminding us, knowing is half the battle.

As far as I'm concerned, the second half is spreading the word and feeling the joy. The only way to phase out the taboos surrounding sexuality and getting it on is to stand firmly against them. In the Buddhist worldview, everything is primordial purity, from the pearl in the oyster to the dirt on the ground. Though this is a little cheesy, I admit, I find it the best way I have of explaining the joy to be had in rimming or bondage. Nothing we do is wrong or dirty: the sex we have is pure, we just have to let it be that way.

I hope you have learned as much from this page as I have these past months. And I hope you've had just as much fun, between the sheets and out in the open. I leave my message of sexual purity to you to spread. But remember to suit up with a condom, so you don't go spreading other things along the way.

Editor's Note: The columnist is not a trained medical professional. If you require professional medical advice, please consult a physician.



SARAH B. GIBSON

THE 'G' SPOT

GINA CALLAHAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

A Hopkins goal is scored and the crowd predictably goes wild. The University's Pep Band, right on cue, pounds out two renditions of "To Win."

To Win, to win/You'd like like Hell to win./But you'll have to wait/'Til the moon turns green/And the Brass Band plays "God Shave the Dean"!/Hi-lo, Hi-lee/It's plain as A-B-C/If anyone's going to win today/It's we, we, we!

The band's bass drum player then bangs on the instrument, and counts out the lacrosse game's score with the loyal fans in attendance. Bananas wave in the air. Cheers resonate throughout the stadium in support of their team. To culminate the celebration, the band and crowd alike cry out that infamous line, "We want more!"

Carrying 30 members for lacrosse in the spring, the JHU Pep Band pride themselves on their undying support for the Blue Jays, entertaining the crowd during play breaks. The band is in a league of its own at these lacrosse games.

"We're pretty much the only [school] in the nation who has a principally lacrosse band," Mike Comeau, band president and trumpet player notes. He also adds that while some schools bring portions of their basketball season bands to lacrosse games, musical accompaniment was "no where to be seen at Princeton" this year.

Present at every lacrosse game, home or away, rain or shine, these musicians are hard core supporters of Hopkins athletics. This year, like many others, the band is, as their classic slogan proclaims, "spreading merriment and mayhem" around the Hopkins campus and beyond.

The Pep band really knows how to keep the crowd entertained. A few years ago at an away game against Hofstra, the multi-talented trumpet section made a spectacle of themselves belting out "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" in falsetto while pouring rain soaked all in attendance.

The Pep Band has even been seen on national television (the new college sports network), receiving close-up shots a few weeks ago during Hopkins' victory against Maryland. One featured musician was trumpeter Dave Sparks who sported a blue and black mohawk.

"I knew if I had a blue and black mohawk, I'd get on national TV," the junior Mechanical Engineer commented.

This year's band may receive yet more publicity when tournament play and more television coverage of college lacrosse begins. And you can bet the Pep Band will be by the team's side till the very end, even after they've completed their academic semester. The NCAA championship takes place on May 26 in Ravens Stadium.

"We go straight through Memorial Day if the team goes that far," said Comeau, a senior Mechanical Engineering major.

The Pep band organization is one with much history and tradition.



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/FILE PHOTO

"To Win", one of the Pep band's main songs, is played every time the lacrosse team scores a goal.

Founded in the early 1920's by Conrad "Gebby" Gebelein, a staff member and avid fan of Hopkins lacrosse, the Pep band began as the banjo club. The group soon evolved to include Pep and Concert components and Jazz program was added in the early 1990's.

Though the Pep band has a staff director position that has been occupied by Peabody graduate Brian Drake since 2000, the organization is essentially student-run and is composed of undergraduates with a few grad students and alumni sprinkled in. Drake's role is to guide the group during their performances and helping them out with financial decisions. He is also good for morale according to Comeau, and is a big reason that the Band program has grown in recent years.

"He's enthusiastic and makes rehearsal fun," Comeau said.

Drake has an equally entertaining time with members of band.

"The best times since I've been at Hopkins have been on Pep band trips. Normally something odd, exciting or hilarious happens on away games," he said.

Games are of course the pinnacle of band amusement. Their two musical staples are the school fight songs in their repertoire: "To Win" played whenever a Hopkins team scores and "Johnny Hopkins on to Victory" played when the team comes out at the beginning of every quarter and at

the game's end. To spice things up, the pep bands adds the occasional German drinking song or a rendition of "Johnny B Good" for the listening pleasure of the audience.

"We play popular stuff that people will recognize," Comeau said, "If the game gets out of hand we can do Looney Tunes or the Muppet Show."

And in the spirit of getting out of hand, one mustn't forget the banana goal. At essentially every lacrosse game for the last 15 years, a group of alumni who call themselves the "Blue Jay Bananas," decide which goal will be the one that makes it impossible for Hopkins' opponent to win. The Pep band gets involved with this decision, waving fruit in the air during their goal countdown on the banana goal. The band may then eat their bananas.

The Blue Jay Bananas have never been mistaken about which goal was the clincher, though this score must come in the fourth quarter or later.

"They err on the side of caution," Comeau said, "They take pride in never having been wrong."

The "Banana Guys" also have the band's back in time of trouble. Two years ago at an away game at Towson, the Pep band was initially situated in an obscure corner of the stands. According to Sparks, who sported the Mohawk, the Blue Jay Bananas "whipped out an NCAA guidebook that said that the band has to sit on the 50 yard line." Consequently the Pep

band was relocated to front and center, among many heckling Towson frat boys.

"Our drummer almost got into a fist fight with one of them, but they left at half-time. We won though. That made it a lot better," Sparks said.

If you're a fan of bananas and/or lacrosse, there is always room in the band for more musicians. The Pep band meets once a week for an hour, as mentioned attends all football and lacrosse games, and consequently makes several overnight trips per year. The group will be posterizing and recruiting in the fall. "A big reason to get involved is getting away from your studies. It's a lot of fun. You will make friends," Comeau asserts. Next year's president, current secretary Beth Johnson concurs. "We've really grown as an ensemble and as an organization, and are always looking to add more students, benefiting themselves and us as an organization," she said.

Students should also realize that JHU Pep Band is not their high school band.

"With high school you get a grade. This is all extracurricular. It's a forced study break," Comeau said.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people at Hopkins that used to play an instrument in high school but had to put it down because of their schedules or other various reasons. The pep band is a perfect low-pressure solution to keep them playing," said Drake.

Getting to know Prof. Ferguson

BY TRIEDUONG NGUYEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Born in New Orleans, La., Professor Frances Ferguson had no idea that she would eventually teach English at Johns Hopkins University. In her youth, she was interested in the piano and violin, which has declined over the years. Though she had a poor academic experience in high school, she was exposed to a much higher level of scholarship once she arrived at college.

"I think it was an advantage to have gone to schools that were really terrible before I got to college, because I really appreciated a good college and how different it was from the schooling I had before," said Ferguson.

Ferguson was an undergraduate at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and she still thinks fondly of her years there, especially for its empowerment of women.

"I was in the same class as Hilary Clinton, and we were the last cohort that graduated before a lot of the Ivy League schools became coed," she said. "I think it's an incredibly valuable thing to have the experience of being at women's colleges since there is an opportunity for women that is there."

She explored many interests at Wellesley, where she was greatly affected by some of the English classes at the college despite initially considering a career as a sociologist.

"But I had no idea what that was," she said with smile.

"However, it just so happened that I took some courses with extraordinary English professors and it made me think about some of the things that were discussed in those classes."

Those classes left a lasting impres-

sion on Ferguson and she eventually went to graduate school at Yale University, where she obtained her Masters and Ph. D. Since then, she has taught at Johns Hopkins for two different durations. Right after obtaining her Ph. D., she taught at Hopkins for four years before moving to the University of California-Berkeley for eleven years. She then returned to Hopkins in 1988 where she has been on the faculty ever since.

She was attracted to teach at JHU by several factors.

"Hopkins seemed like an incredibly interesting place because it valued discussion and real exchange and interchange among students, faculty, and faculty of all ranks ... in a way that other schools don't," she said.

Over the past 30 or so years, Ferguson has noticed numerous changes at the University, especially in the English Department.

"I think that the changes in the undergraduate courses at the university are really huge ... there were far fewer English majors in 1973 than there are now ... I got the feeling that they felt very isolated and beleaguered." She notes that where there used to be only three to five English majors per year, there are now dozens of them and credited the increase to much better promotion by the University of its other strengths.

"Hopkins has always had a strong program in humanities, but it used to be the case that there was much less awareness outside in the world that there were strengths outside of the sciences," she said. "I think the university has done an excellent job of promoting Hopkins' strengths in departments like English and History, which has attracted more applicants."

Ferguson maintains an interest in



HOLLY MARTIN/FILE PHOTO
English Prof. Frances Ferguson.

many forms of literature, as shown by the many books adorning her office walls. Her favorites include the poetry of William Wordsworth, but she also enjoys the novels of Samuel Richardson and Jane Austen. Her most recent publication, in fact, was on Austen.

To those undergraduates who are interested in pursuing a career in English, Ferguson had these words of advice.

"You must understand that there are not very large numbers of jobs ... you have to deal with the discouragement of having to look for a job for two or even three years," she said. "Even for very talented people, it can be tough to get a job quickly. You can do an excellent dissertation but it doesn't mean you will have control over your future schedule." Those interested in a career in English Literature should keep these words in mind.

At CTY, kids take classes for camp

Hopkins program gives students a chance to learn over summer

BY EMILY NALVEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Summer camp used to be about learning to canoe, singing songs, roasting marshmallows and meeting your summer love. Well, times have changed. Campers at Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) spend their summers taking academic classes such as geopolitics, existentialism or mathematical logic. But some things stay the same; the quest for summer romance lives on.

Since 1979, CTY has recognized top academic students in grades two through eight and offered them the opportunity to participate in exciting educational programs all over the United States. In CTY's annual Talent Search, teachers and guidance counselors in over 10,000 schools nominate students from grades two through eight who have scored above the 96th percentile on any nationally standardized test. These students then take the SATs and scores of 430 or greater on either verbal or math get them accepted into one of CTY's many enriching programs.

In residential summer programs across the country, online classes and conferences, bright students can mingle and engage in new academic pursuits.

Charles Beckman, director of communications and marketing for the University is quick to point out CTY summer camps are not for nerds.

"All kids think they're going to nerd camp ... until they get there," said Beckman, a former writing teacher for CTY.

Besides going to class for five hours a day and having two hours of mandatory studying five days a week for three weeks, summer students participate in traditional camp activities. Swimming, tennis, soccer and creating a culminating yearbook fill the hours in between program.

Even though students have 105 classroom hours of learning, Beckman feels the program is not overbearing.

"No one is going to complete college and graduate school in three weeks," he said.

The purpose of the program is to stimulate and enrich the minds of gifted students; not be a substitute for college.

CTY is unique among academic summer programs in that it provides residential advisors to supervise and plan events the entire three weeks that the campers are there. Unlike other programs where young students take college courses and are left to fend for themselves, CTY helps create a supportive community for the partici-

pants. Besides the instructor, each class has a teaching assistant and strictly enforces a teacher-student ratio of 1:15.

With a new executive director, Dr. Lea Ybarra, CTY has embarked on a new mission: to increase socioeconomic and cultural diversity. To do so, they have aggressively sent recruiters to economically disadvantaged urban areas across the country.

In the six years Ybarra has been in charge, the percentage of non Asian and non white students have increased from a low of one percent in 1998 to 10 percent this year. Much of this is due to the increase in scholarship funding for students.

Goldman Sachs, Hopkins trustee Chuck Miller and an L.A. based donor Sheldon Stone have all pledged their financial support. With a hefty price tag of \$2500 for one three week summer session, lots of gifted students miss out because their families can't afford the program. These scholarships aim to change that.

While we Blue Jays are too old to attend CTY, it is still possible to get involved with the program through summer jobs including those as teaching assistants and residential advisors. And with a new CTY site located in Honolulu, Hawaii, nerd camp sounds pretty cool.

FEATURES

JHU Students fly on NASA jet



COURTESY OF PAUL NERENBERG

Juniors Mowry Cook and Mike Sharma get a taste of weightlessness.

BY MAANY PEYVAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Paul Nerenberg looks at Sara Marten and they understand. Leaning on the wooden railings outside the Gatehouse, the juniors explain their amazing story. It starts back in mid-October and ends with them and five other Hopkins undergrads traveling to Houston to board a NASA jet. And as they weave back and forth through an adventure that finds them stressed, excited, queasy, even, at times, weightless, it is still difficult to grasp just exactly what these students went through.

What can be explained clearly is that Nerenberg and Marten, along with juniors Mowry Cook, Mike Sharma, Sara Marten, Sam Phillips and seniors Paul Gosling and Yo-Rhin Rhim won a national competition to conduct an experiment in weightless conditions. The students drafted a proposal to study how liquids are mixed in microgravity.

What can not really be explained is those fifteen minutes the students got to spend free from the bounds of gravity on board the KC-135 Aircraft, nicknamed the "Vomit Comet." "It's

so hard to describe," said Marten. "It's so odd to have such a complete lack of control. You're helpless really."

Nerenberg does his best to try and articulate the experience. "It's completely surreal. There's no way to expect what will happen when you're weightless. It's really serene, really quiet."

The plane achieves weightlessness by flying in a sharp parabolic path. The Comet starts level, flying at max speed at an elevation of about 26,000 feet. It takes a sharp 45-degree climb, an ascent that exhibits conditions twice those of normal gravity. After 15 or 20 seconds of climbing, bright lights suddenly switch on, a NASA crewmember yells "Over the Top!" and the Comet reaches its apex. For three seconds, the passengers feel a sudden surge upward, as if they're about to go flying into the ceiling. Then as the engines shut off, the plane goes quiet and gravity becomes a thing of the past.

For 23 seconds the passengers become supermen. They are free to somersault, glide and spin through the air. Only Gosling, Nerenberg, Cook, Sharma and Marten were able to fly

on the plane; NASA limits the number of students who can fly to four and an alternate. By the end of their flights, the five students flew through 42 parabolas and experience about fifteen minutes of weightlessness, more than Alan Shepard experienced on his manned space flight.

The group's research project was entitled STILLMix or Surface Tension Impelled Low-gravity Mixing experiment. The group attempted to study whether liquids could mix with surface tension as the only driving force. They set up a series of syringes, which they used to dispel liquids across an aluminum surface.

The team discovered that weightless conditions for the experiment were almost impossible to predict. "One thing we learned was how inaccurate zero G conditions are," said Nerenberg. "Elements like turbulence, even good piloting can alter microgravity conditions. 50% of our experiments did not do what we wanted them to do. It's different than how liquids behave in Earth's gravity. Liquids spread out very slowly and creep together. Mixture occurs very violently."

"On Earth, you've seen liquids behave all your life," said Marten. "It's intuitive, how they interact. But in microgravity, everything is so counterintuitive. The biggest thing we learned was how to design experiments for microgravity in the future."

And though the proposal took ten grueling days to draft, though the experiment required seven egos to peacefully coexist, though the project was designed and built completely by the students, the juniors are all eager to enter the competition next year.

"You forget all the long nights and all the yelling," said Nerenberg. "When you've been on the plane, it turns the volume down on life. If class is stressful, you just think, 'I've been weightless.'"

Marten laughs at the comment and agrees. They're nonchalant about the experience and speak of it lightheartedly. But truthfully, they now join only a handful of other human beings who could possibly understand what their experience was like. It's a wonder how they stay so down to Earth.

Homecoming packed with events for Hopkins alumni and students

BY LINDSAY SAXE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It's that time of year again — the last three weeks of school when the Homewood campus actually becomes a modestly entertaining place to be, it's sunny and beautiful outside, and most students have more work than they can shake a stick at.

In this yearly struggle between work and play, there's a time-honored tradition that will draw some people out of the MSE this weekend: Homecoming at Homewood.

Reunion 2003, as it's called, promises to be full of interesting events, including discussion panels, speeches, scientific demonstrations, free food and a Men's Lacrosse game. The weekend will be especially enjoyable for seniors, who can look forward to a free barbeque before the lacrosse game — in the U.S. Lacrosse tent located on the far side of Homewood field — complete with hot dogs, hamburgers and beer (for those who are 21, of course) as well as many other special events.

"They'll all be alums in a few weeks ... [so] we wanted to start doing stuff to get seniors psyched about being alumni," said Karen Moul, Class of '90 and assistant director of the Homewood Alumni Relations Office.

Seniors can also expect to see the crowning of Homecoming King and Queen at halftime during the lacrosse game, as well as a dance on Saturday night from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The added benefit: It's open-bar for those 21 and over, and it's free for members of the senior class.

Sunday night will feature the senior class dinner, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., which will include a "giant buffet" and a ring ceremony.

The Alumni Relations Office expects 600 to 700 seniors to attend the dinner, said Moul.

There are, however, plenty of events open to all other students and Hopkins alumni. There will be a discussion on American foreign policy hosted by the associate dean of academic affairs, Dr. Steven David. As a part of the office's program called Alumni College, panel discussions give the alumni a chance to engage in the current topics of academics at Hopkins. This Alumni weekend, there will be about 10 different events that are academically ori-



MIKE FISCHER/FILE PHOTO

This year's Homecoming will attract thousands of alumni to Homewood, but promises exciting events for current undergrad students as well.

ented, in addition to a lecture by Ross Jones, who was formerly the executive assistant to five University presidents.

"That's a big deal," said Moul about David's upcoming discussion, "we already have about 100 [registered] people coming to that," said Moul. David will probably discuss, the Middle East, Korea as well as general topics in American Foreign policy. David's discussion will be on Friday May 1, in Arellano Theater, 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

For all the science nerds out there — the many science nerds that make up this school — Dr. Mario Livio of the Space Telescope Science Institute will be giving a lecture entitled "The Golden Ratio," on the Greek letter π and its mathematical significance. Apparently Livio will separate fact from fiction in the hot debate over this number's meaning. A dry subject, you arts and sciences students may say?

Apparently it's a must see. "We have a 17 year-old kid that just applied to Hopkins who's driving down from Richmond to hear him speak," said Moul.

Anyone down for some constella-

tion mapping? On Friday, the Bloomberg Observatory will be open for stargazing from 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

Also in the fascinating science realm, Marc Clayton of the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) will be blowing things up in his demonstration, "Marc's Groovy Science." Clayton, who is a mechanical engineer in the Avery Advanced Technology Lab, operates the giant wind tunnel at APL.

While this particular event is more geared towards kids, Moul said Clayton's presentation is "really cool ... I saw it once ... he's just awesome."

Overall, Moul said the weekend should draw a few thousand Hopkins alumni from around the country. However, Homecoming at Homewood is not merely catered to those who've made it out of here successfully — it's going to offer much needed entertainment and distraction for the entire Homewood community.

For a complete listing of times and locations of events, check out https://alumni.jhu.edu/reunion_2003/general_registration.html.

HOT AT HOPKINS

It's been a grand ol' year here at H@H. Hope you enjoyed the collage of beautiful faces and personalities that make up our fine university. But you should still work out a bit over the summer.



Name: Ishwaria Chandramohan
Sign: Cancer
Year: Senior
Major: Biology

Born in Madras, India but raised in "glamorous" York, Pa., Ishwaria is definitely one of a kind. As an RA of Wilson House, an Alpha Phi sister, editor-in-chief of a research journal and a member of the SAC, she probably's done more in the past week than you've done all year. But there's more to the girl with her very own Megabytes Quesadilla.

Being a premed has led Ishwaria to call *Fundamentals of Physics* her favorite bedside reading. In her little bit of spare time, she likes listening to Linkin Park or watching Keanu Reeves movies. Totally.

Her ideal boyfriend is an adult version of baby Stewie from the *Family Guy*. There's nothing like a little Roger Rabbit-style cartoon ac-

tion.

Ishwaria has a recurring nightmare where she is forced to go on the show *Eliminate*. Of course, that's a hell of a lot better than being referred to as *The Fifth Wheel*.

Best pickup line she overheard: "Are you a parking ticket cause you've got 'fine' written all over you?" If someone everyone tries this on you, slap them.

If being a doctor doesn't work out, Ishwaria still hasn't given up her childhood dream of being the ruler of the universe by day and an astronaut at night. It may sound weird to you, but to Ishwaria it's as American as her own quesadilla.



Name: Keith Gershenson
Sign: Virgo
Year: Senior
Major: Computer Science

The first thing you have to know

about Keith is that he used to run around naked in his dorm. But that was then; this is now. He's come a long way since freshman year and is ready to venture out into the "world".

Growing up in West Babylon, N.Y., Keith was known as a party-animal. Well, not really. But he certainly turned into one during his four years at the Hop. Once, while wasted, he accidentally dropped the girl he was dancing with on the floor. Yeah, he was that wasted.

"Goofy, carefree, and passionate" there's nothing Keith loves more than a nice tub of chocolate chip cookie dough. His worst date took place at the Polo Grill, where he was appalled at both the quality and the price of the food. That'll teach you to try and splurge on a first date.

To Keith, sexy woman equals a "mini skirt to show off some leg, high heels, not an albino." When looking for that special someone, his tastes are not the usual bread and butter. "I like ponytails and girls who can fart."

His current extracurricular activity is being the customer service coordinator for the HAC lab, where he claims he gets paid for doing absolutely nothing. We believe you.

After graduation, he hopes to get a stint on *Survivor*. Otherwise, he is unemployed with no job in sight. "I think I'm going to leech off my mom for a few months so I can catch up on some sleep."

Inside the prefrosh experience

BY FRANCESCA C. HANSEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Ian Wing was a little too excited to have been accepted at Johns Hopkins.

"I was screaming, 'Sam, I got into Hopkins!' And I was jumping up and down, and I landed and rolled my ankle, and I ruptured a ligament," he said on a recent tour of the Homewood campus.

Like the other thousand or so prospective Hopkins students, or "pre-frosh," Wing is taking part in the annual pre-freshman groups, or "Discovery Days" for the incoming 2003 Freshman Class. A two day blur of student-run tour groups, a Student Activities Expo, and overnight stays give the first juicy tastes of Hopkins life. But just how enticing is Hopkins life from the perspective of a rising sophomore? I grabbed an undergraduate course manual, put on my best look of naivete and awe and joined the flock.

Outside of Levering Hall, the dismal skies don't seem to affect the mood of the herd of patiently gathered pre-freshmen and parents. They bunter back and forth about the campus tours in Spanish, or Hindu and speculate about the housing tour they're waiting for.

Anxious to see if I can keep up the pre-frosh facade, I begin to chat with a small brunette with curls pulled back in a ponytail. She explains she's anxious to start crew in the fall, and we exchange the familiar freshman small talk. "Have you met Meg yet?" she asks me, with bits of Student Activities Commission-provided carrots peeking out of her retainer. "She's so funny," she says.

Wandering towards the AMRs, we get the full schpiel about the freshman housing "experience," and the flock is silently concentrated on Gavin McGuire, our tour guide. "Have there been any rodent problems?" I ask.

McGuire looks anxiously around him, answering that the AMRs are fumigated twice a year, and that most have been exterminated. "That's a non-answer answer," mutters a father. At second thought, I decide not to mention the three mouse death count in my suite.

"Just like Grifindor," a mother points out

as we file into the Griffin House of AMR11. The claustrophobic hallways and matchbox rooms draw more than a few rolled eyes by parents. A dry-erase board with a organic chemistry molecules draws almost every pointed finger. After the Griffin walk through, the housing tour is over. "That's it?" a student murmurs.

The scattered crowd makes its way back to the Levering quad. Back on the lower quad, the Student Activities Fair is underway. Out come the cell phones, as students desperately seek separated parents. Five pre-frosh are roosting on the steps, pecking on popcorn, nervously taking in the scene. Most have shed their normal clothes, and eagerly put on their Hopkins sweatshirts, some still wrinkled from their neat folds in the bookstore.

A father and daughter rest quietly on the benches, flipping through the course manual. "See these professors? Look at their undergraduates ... Harvard ... Harvard ... Harvard ..." They continue to talk about course credits, and other such academic worries. Although a biology major, Kristina Cammen of Silver Spring, Md., is not a premed.

"We wanted to find out what it's like not to be premed," her father Leon explained. "95% of the questions at the tour were about med school," he said. Reunited families pair off and enter the Glass Pavilion. Wearing matching blue blazers, one father turns to his son, and whispers, "I can feel the vitality."

Inside the Glass Pav, groups from The Outdoor Club to College Re-

publicans are lined up in half a dozen rows, waiting to pounce on their new recruits. Students sign up for e-mail lists, get assorted ribbons and stickers, and are met with an outpouring of excitement.

Outside the chaos of the Glass Pavilion, petals from the nearby flowering trees are falling on a family huddled to discuss the day. "You want to join a sorority, don't you?" the brother asks. "No, I really don't, I passed a group of girls, and I thought, 'wow, those must be sorority girls' - like, oh my god," says Megan Duffy, a Hopkins recruit. In addition to not being enthused about greeks at Hopkins, Leddy is now canceling her overnight stay, "C'mon, let's cancel, let's go home," the fatigued pre-frosh asks her parents.

At the crossroads for hosts in the levering lounge, the hosting society table, students are loitering anxiously for their overnight roomies. A boy with a ten gallon cowboy hat and a rolling backpack wonders about the possibility of a last-minute arrangement. "I was just looking for a last minute alternative to staying with relatives."

Walking along with Wing at the end of the afternoon, I finally reveal my sophomore status. Excited to learn I have "suite-style living," Wing asks for a picture of my room. Having snapped pictures of Chemistry buildings, the sculpture garden, the track and everything in between, he explains the need to capture the many experiences of the pre-frosh weekend. "Otherwise, everything just blurs together."



LIZ STEINBERG/NEWS-LETTER

"Decision Days" is a two-day event designed to attract accepted students to Hopkins.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Varied summer releases promise excitement, laughs



COURTESY OF [HTTP://MEMBERS.BELLATLANTIC.NET](http://members.bellatlantic.net)
X-Men 2 continues the trend of comic book-to-movie conversions.

BY COURTNEY RICE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Summer 2003 is shaping up to be the Summer of Sequels. A lot of your old favorites are returning to the big screen so they can hopelessly mutilate and forever destroy your appreciation for the original films, but if you're like me, you'll be watching them nonetheless. A few of them might actually be decent, and there are a few clever originals coming your way, as well. Here's your sneak preview.

X-Men 2 — May 2
Directed by Brian Singer, X2 brings back all of your favorites from the first film — including Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), Storm (Halle Berry), Cyclops (James Marsden), Mystique (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos) and Anna Paquin (Rogue) — for another fight against evil and intolerance. This time around, the mutants will form an unlikely alliance with Magneto (Ian McKellen) to stop William Stryker (Brian Cox), a military leader rumored to have experimented on mutants and one of the most vocal supporters of the Mutant Registra-

tion Act. Wolverine will have to confront his murky past, while some new mutants join the mix for both good and evil. Look for cutie Shawn Ashmore as Iceman, Alan Cumming slimy as ever as Nightcrawler and the gorgeous Kelly Hu as Deathstrike.

The Matrix Reloaded — May 15
Wow. I just watched the trailer for *Reloaded*, and I can't believe what I saw. With this sequel to *The Matrix*, the Wachowski brothers take special effects to a whole new level, promising to blow even its predecessor box office smash out of the water. In just the short trailer, I watched Neo (Keanu Reeves) fly like Superman, flip a motorcycle off of a burning building, smash a moving car simply by jumping on it, stop about 50 bullets in midair and kick some serious butt in his trademark slow-mo, gravity-defying, kung fu style. I guarantee that *Reloaded* will offer great action sequences, and I can bet that this religious allegory will also leave you with plenty to think about, too: In this installment, Neo and the rebel leaders estimate that they have 72 hours before a quarter million probes discover and

destroy Zion. Also, Neo must decide how to save Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) from a dark fate in his dreams.

The Hulk — June 20
This promising film, directed by Ang Lee (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), is a big budget fantasy based on the comic, a direct result of last summer's hit, *Spider-Man*. Eric Bana takes muscle to the max as Bruce Banner and his alter-ego, the Hulk. Nick Nolte plays his father, Dr. David Banner, and the lovely Jennifer Connelly plays the damsel in distress, Dr. Betty Ross. Expect lots of cool special effects in this Jekyll and Hyde action film.

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle — June 27
Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu reunite in this sequel to the action-comedy blockbuster inspired by the popular television series. Directed by McG, this film sends the Angels undercover to retrieve two missing bands that contain encrypted information revealing the new identities of every person in the federal Witness Protection Program. The two prime suspects are a "fallen" Angel, Madison

Lee (Demi Moore), and the Thin Man (Crispin Glover). You'll also find Bernie Mac, Luke Wilson, Matt LeBlanc and the Olsen twins (as themselves).

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines — July 2
John Connor (Nick Stahl) is now 18, and a female terminator, called T-X or Terminatrix (Kristanna Loken), is after him. A new T-101 (Arnold Schwarzenegger) is sent back through time to protect John once again from the killer. But will he succeed against Terminatrix, a seemingly stronger terminator? You'll have to check out Jonathan Mostow's film to find out.

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde — July 2
The first *Legally Blonde* starred Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, an unlikely law school student adapting to Harvard life after undergrad in Beverly Hills. In this outing, Elle turns her legal and fashion-savvy know-how towards passing a bill in Congress, relocating to D.C. to fight for animal rights. She befriends the hotel's doorman, Sidney (Bob Newhart), who helps guide her through the political system.

Pete Yorn album loses edge

BY ROBBIE WHELAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Pete Yorn is everything with which a young male Hopkins undergraduate can sympathize. He's a shy, scraggly guy from New Jersey. He probably didn't get into those prestigious colleges where he really wanted to go. He seems to have trouble holding on to girls. The difference is that he has a debut album that went gold, countless TV and film soundtrack appearances and the ability to sound like a six-piece band if you give him a few hours alone in a studio. And you don't.

Day I Forgot is a follow-up to his self-proclaimed "musical hangover," *music for the morning after*, which was released by Columbia in 2001 to the applause of critics nationwide, but to little mainstream attention. As the story goes, Yorn played a solo acoustic version of *music*'s opening track, "Life on a Chain," to a Columbia Records talent scout in L.A. and was signed on the spot. As you may recall, this story sounds a bit like how Columbia discovered Jeff Buckley: playing solo one night in a hole-in-the-wall coffee joint and giving him a

contract on a whim.

Both rockers turned out to be huge success stories for the label, but Buckley is clearly the greater talent. What Buckley brought to the table in sheer passion, Yorn strives to make up for in pretense and melodrama. "Music is about a feeling," insists Yorn on his Web site, and his new album soundly proves his theory with songs about feelings that are so ambiguous and gray that it's tough to hear any kind of narrative or background.

Yorn is first and foremost a drummer, but on the new one, just as it went on *music*, he sings and plays almost every instrument that appears on the record. He voice is pained and gravelly, and the mix makes it sound higher than the low baritone that it actually is. His sound is a straight-laced, un-experimental take on the style originated by The Smiths in the '80s and expanded upon more recently by the Wallflowers and Sun Volt. There's usually an acoustic guitar banging beneath the buzz of a distortion guitar riff and simple but authoritative drum beats. Yorn's sound arena is a tough one to compete in, and it definitely seems that he has lost

this round to a sophomore slump.

"Come Back Home," the album's first single, is about as catchy as the tracks on *music for the morning after* that I usually skip. Moreover, Yorn's knack for writing songs divided into erratic and equally rich sections of refrains, verses and bridges has failed him completely since *music*. The verses are not catchy, the choruses hardly singable and the lyrics asinine. Yorn's lines are from that section of his heart that only he can understand and that isn't really very interesting anyway. He seems to take it pretty seriously, though. His austerity becomes ridiculous on the 10th track, "Burrito," which includes the lines, "Do you wanna take a walk outside / If you want a burrito / You can have another bite of mine / It could last you forever," sung earnestly to a buzzing minor riff from Yorn's axe.

After a stunning debut, I'm inclined to forgive Pete for his lackluster showing. After all, he does things alone in the studio that most people couldn't do with an entire band. All we can do now is keep faith with this Garden State anti-hero until he gets his groove back.



VADIM GRETCHOUGHKIN/NEWS-LETTER
Sophomore Elspeth Kursh and Junior Ryan Hopson perform in Marshall Ross' one-act Chinky Touley.

Witness falls flat in Arellano

BY JONATHAN GROCE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

While 1,100 students were at the Athletic Center last Friday night — presumably enjoying the free Pharcyde and Blackalicious concert — a handful of devoted theater-goers paid a few bucks for the latest showcase from Witness Theatre. However, as with Spring Fair's curious decision to forego charging, Witness should not have requested a dime for the performance. In fact, Witness should have paid people \$3 to watch the showcase.

Witness's final showcase of the year was anything but polished; in fact, these three short plays felt like workshops with the wrong talent and subpar script selection. Only a month ago, Witness delivered a series of uneven, but noteworthy short plays, including *The Book of Morton* and *Militant Lesbians on Ice*. Why these three plays? I demand an explanation.

I ask only as a concerned consumer of Hopkins theater. Spring Fair weekend is the time to shine for all the visitors to our campus and to really pull off impressive performances. It doesn't hurt to select student material from talented, future playwrights. Hell, all of this was at least in spirit last month, if not execution.

The showcase will forever be notorious for the promotion of the musical, *Letters to Kurt*, the highly touted event. Don't get me wrong, I wasn't necessarily expecting another Throat Culture *AIM Musical* or the caliber of *The Secret Garden*, but given that Witness has often excelled on a shoe-string budget (*The Blue Cranberry Hour*), I truly looked forward to Gillian Gower's "post-modernist, neo-impressionistic abstract interpretation of the original musical, *Letters to Kurt*." Whatever that meant, the possibilities were endless.

The title refers to open-ended letters to Kurt Cobain, written by one extremely banal young woman, Lia. Portrayed by Marina Koestler, Lia is the type of person without any discernible personality, suddenly finding herself in a not-so-twisted love triangle with her boyfriend Luke (Marshall Ross) and lesbian companion Morgan (Tegan Machnich). Gower employs all the clichés of narcissistic angst, including references

to Valium, unrequited love and morbid desires.

While Lia ponders her entangled relationships with Luke and Morgan, all three characters sing of their desires and fears. The musical numbers, unfortunately, push the theatrics and unconvincing characterizations further into troubled areas. Each song is merely rejected material from a better musical, including the Jonathan Larson-esque battle duet "Stay With That B—," in which Luke and Morgan express frustration and jealousy with each other in their pursuit of Lia.

As Morgan, Machnich is the best singer of the lot, but her voice is strained and unimpressive. Ross, while self-conscious of his acting abilities, as noted when his fans cheered at his every spoken word or sung lyric, mumbled through his performances. Koestler, as the depressive Lia, nearly put me to sleep with a voice hardly suited for any type of theater. I was forced to question whether they were intentionally awful singers, in light of the "neo-impressionistic abstract" program notes. Either way, everyone seemed particularly disinterested in the genuinely tired lyrics.

The next one-act fared somewhat better. *Chinky Touley*, written by Letters to Kurt's Marshall Ross, proves he is far more talented as a playwright and should leave the singing to professionals. In fact, one gets the impression he was dared to appear in the musical. Either way, this dramatic work manages to explore the utter banality of one neurotic Cathie, played by Elspeth Kursh. Cathie strolls into a random bar where she encounters the dispensable bar owner, Lady Eugenia (Nancy Beceira-Cordoba) and the apparitional regular, Chicky (Ryan Hopson). Cathie runs her mouth about the most random of New York clichés, while craving attention from the disinterested Chicky. Along the way, nothing is particularly discovered, except Cathie's inability to remove herself from the center of her universe.

Kursh bravely played the stereotypical Cathie, and managed to reshape the character with her own particular personality. However, she delivered each monologue without any dramatic timing, preferring to speed through the performance as soon as humanly possible. Hopson

doesn't do or say much, except struggle to control himself from laughing at the intentionally comedic Kursh. With very little actually happening, director Seth Carlson manages to keep the characters and the audience interested in the material with subtle blocking, although Hopson may or may not know how to actually dance. After a strong start, the play fizzles creatively, and as a workshop, I could see this scene improve drastically.

After a short intermission, the Witness crew enlivened things considerably with a party set featuring balloons, three tables and six cardboard cutouts of the cast members in *The Late, Great Speed Date*. Written by Marina Koestler, who like Ross, proves herself a far better writer than actress, the one-act injected life into the droll evening with a parody of awful reality date specials. The premise: three men and three women speed-date. After a brief ice-breaker conversation, the bell will ring, and everyone has to find a new partner. At the end of the show, only those interested in each other will exchange contact information.

Director Jessica Kajfasz employed pitch-perfect casting on all accounts, from the smarmy host Sam (Matt Reed) to the radical feminist Abra (Megan Hiorth). As each expressed his or her views on dating, Koestler's words are exceptionally funny, and the talented actors handled her script with ease. Hiorth was wonderfully formidable as the man-hater, while Lisa Caitlin Perri endeared the audience to her portrayal of a pathetic cartographer, desperate for love. Meanwhile, Angelo Santiago played Cobra with a tongue-in-cheek masculinity and exceptional stage presence, but I recommend the actor work on his comedic timing.

The farce was enjoyable, but ended in what I like to call convenient chaos. When comedies realize they run out of steam or are not sure where to go next, writers tend to explode the situation with absurd pratfalls. Thankfully, after the initial convenient chaos, Koestler brings the play back full circle with a calm recap of the one-act, in confessional reality TV style. Sure, the play was hardly illuminating, and the stereotypes lost their edge by the end of the play, but after the first two one-acts, everything felt fresh and unabashed.



VADIM GRETCHOUGHKIN/NEWS-LETTER
Students Kristin Simpson, Howard Turner, Vladimir Cadet and Tom West bring Miller's classic to life.

DBH to present Miller's Salesman

BY ANDY MOSKOWITZ
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Benedict A. Dorsey has been directing the Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater Company (DBH) since its on-campus inception 10 years ago. Founder of Benedictions Productions, Inc., a Baltimore inner-city educational theater company, Dorsey's life revolves around theater, and he's happy to be a part of the Hopkins dramatic community.

"Dunbar Baldwin Hughes was founded because students of color felt discriminated by other theater companies," says Dorsey. Since most of the on-campus plays called for white actors, excluded students voiced their concerns to Dean Larry Benedict in the early '90s. Thus, DBH Theater began.

This weekend, DBH will put up its second and final show of the year, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. For a company whose previous credits include August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* and *Ma Rainey's*

Black Bottom, Miller's story of a white middle-class family seems like an unfitting choice. But that might be the point.

"We were just joking about doing *Death of a Salesman*," says Dorsey, "until someone said 'let's really do it.'" Dorsey's and DBH's thesis is this: since *Death of a Salesman*, like most of Arthur Miller's work, is a story about American life more than anything else, race shouldn't play a factor. If Willie Loman represents the everyday workingman, then he represents the entire American racial spectrum. Says Dorsey, "Personally we chose it because it's the American dream ... and that incorporates all races."

To prove this point, Dorsey initially wanted to racially "reverse" the casting, so white characters would be played by African-American actors, and vice-versa. (A recent production of *Othello*, with Patrick Stewart, was racially reversed and opened to rave reviews.) Ultimately, however, Dorsey decided on a colorblind casting process. As a result, the Loman

family consists of three African-American actors — Howard Turner, Kristin Simpson and Vladimir Cadet — and one white actor, senior Tom West.

Dorsey isn't concerned with any negative responses the public might have. "I don't care at all. [DBH] loves to challenge and start controversy," he says. When DBH put on Douglas Turner's *Day of Absence*, a comedy about every non-white person disappearing for a single day, they advertised with big, bright posters depicting their actors with white painted faces. But the color-swapping and race relations aren't Dorsey's goal. His message is that the theater is for everyone, regardless of race. "My dream is that all the theater companies on campus should work together on a show ... a giant musical or something," he says.

Death of a Salesman runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday (May 1, May 2 and May 3) at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

From Hollywood to Hopkins: highs and lows in arts

Whether a product of Hopkins theater or the Home Box Office, no success or bomb escaped our radar — we now offer our final list

Compiling lists is a time-honored tradition in the world of arts and entertainment, with every filmmaker, author, actor and musician striving to be the best while pursuing artistic expression. Everyone wants to be recognized for his or her achievements. Hell, we are a nation of individuals competing for that coveted spot of adoration. The past school year has witnessed the arrival of a flurry of films, television programs and album releases. Furthermore, the theatrical performances on campus must not be overlooked, with nearly a production every week. Wading through the



COURTESY OF BAYAREAANIME.COM
Oscar winner for Animation Film.

murky river is a daunting task, but we are brave.

FILM Pics

Spirited Away — Sure, Disney shelled out the bucks to distribute this film in America, but it doesn't change the fact that Mickey & Co. has never produced an animated film with as much imagination, intrigue and tenderness as *Spirited Away*. The brainchild of Japanese animation giant Hayao Miyazaki and his Studio Ghibli, *Spirited Away* isn't merely kid's fare; it's a deep rumination on growing older and saying goodbye. While the film is utterly bizarre at times, it remains emotionally immediate nonetheless. Miyazaki takes you on a ride replete with strange sights and sounds, but he never leaves your heart behind.

All The Real Girls — 27-year-old writer/director David Gordon Green achieves a poetic timelessness in this simple contemporary love story, set in rural North Carolina. There are moments when you feel you could pull off the surface and find the same story echoing back through human history. Green's directorial command has tightened significantly since his first film, *George Washington*, and, thankfully, he still defies Hollywood conventions. Remember his name: he's one of the best newcomers in the world.

Adaptation — The Kaufman/Jonze team follow up their homerun *Being John Malkovich* with a grand slam. Beyond its fierce originality, fresh performances and brain-twisting meta-edginess, *Adaptation*'s most remarkable achievement is its perfect balance between vicious satire and genuine tragedy.

Far From Heaven — Probably one of the most confusing films of the year. Sure, the Todd Haynes' film is universally praised, but for the wrong reasons. Instead of merely imitating Douglas Sirk's melodramas in pure pastiche panache, Haynes, along with a brilliant performance from Julianne Moore and Dennis Quaid, practically reinvented the modern melodrama and reinvigorated the post-modern comedy. Honestly, the film is a hoot, from melancholy start to maudlin finish.

Chicago — Pure Hollywood gold, from start to finish. Sure, *Moulin Rouge* kicked off the momentary interest in musicals, but this film arguably has more heart and chutzpah, not to mention choreography that wasn't a complete disaster. With stunning cinematography and amazing

performances from Catherine Zeta-Jones, Queen Latifah and John C. Reilly, this little musical earned its Oscars. Or maybe, we're just suckers for cheese.

Pans
Adventures of Pluto Nash — Now here's a cool idea for all you aspiring producers: blindly green-light a screenplay that seems like it was written on the toilet, assume that putting a big name comedian in the lead role will somehow fix everything, allot roughly \$50 for the sets and costumes, and hire the director of *Mighty Joe Young* to tie it all together. Then let the finished project sit on the shelf for two years before you thrust it unadvertised upon the naive public. In short, don't see this movie, folks. Actually, maybe you should see it, just so you can tell your kids "you were there" when American cinema hit rock bottom.

Swept Away — Definitive proof that studio executives should banish Madonna from any lot in the general vicinity. Now we know why the film was filmed in the Caribbean, very far from Los Angeles. Truly, this is an awful, beleaguered mess of a remake, and with Guy Ritchie directing, you have to wonder if his wife has him whipped.

Daredevil — Despite its undeniable visual inventiveness, *Daredevil* took me to hell and back. Somehow a hit with audiences, it lacks everything that makes a comic book movie fun: an idiosyncratic hero, a complex villain and snappy dialogue. Instead, Affleck's character acts more like a Rent-A-Cop, Duncan and Farrell forget to step out of their cookie cutters and the dialogue is actually worse than most comic books themselves.

The Core — This disaster movie arrived about six years after its Whitehouse-blasting brethren, but that's not what lands *The Core* on this list. Rather, it's the lifeless, cliché-ridden screenplay that's so simple it could have been randomly generated by a computer. In fact, to call this film a "disaster movie" is probably using one word too many.

The Hours — Well, gee, what went wrong here? The film has three great actresses in the main roles, a fantastic supporting cast, a director whose *Billy Elliot* is a treasure, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel as its source material. Oh, that's right: someone forgot to include a point. *The Hours* is a film so wrapped up in itself, and quite frankly so in love with itself, that it thinks it doesn't need one. I've never seen so much angst in one story without any substantial internal study of the characters. Just because Meryl Streep is crying doesn't mean I'm going to cry along with her. Other problems: Julianne Moore's section falls completely flat, as director Daldry barely tries to mask its literary roots. And Philip Glass' droning score made me want to hit my ears with a brick.

TELEVISION Pics



COURTESY OF WWW.GREATDAVE.ORG
We respect the South Park gang.

Curb Your Enthusiasm — Yes, the best! For those without HBO, I pity

thee, I truly do. Larry David (the co-creator of *Seinfeld*) continually delivers the most random of hilarious situations and relies on improvisational acting to connect the dots. Already, the show has managed to get away with everything *Seinfeld* could not, including post-coital public hairs, racist jokes and nativity scenes.

South Park — The left versus the right. Pro-war versus anti-war. J-Lo versus Jennifer Lopez. On *South Park*, the world is divided into distinct categories, and the writers sit back and skewer everyone in offensive humor that is equal-opportunist. Not only have they officially stolen the role of social satirists from *The Simpsons*, they recently celebrated their 100th episode with a rarity in aging shows — humor.

Six Feet Under — Alan Ball's twisted drama explores life, death and everything in between with the perfect balance of talented actors, poignant, acute dialogue and beautiful cinematography. Every episode is a morbid morsel, proving that corpses have never been so alive.

Alias — Endlessly complex in its ability to deliver an intricate network of government conspiracies, the show raises the bar for all spy thrillers, including the now dated 24. Jennifer Garner is a veritable chameleon, and could teach Madonna a few pointers on fashion and hair alterations. Packed with emotional gut and fascinating design, this show remains the most underrated on television.

Trigger Happy TV — The funniest British import since early episodes of *Absolutely Fabulous*. Comedy Central began airing this twisted spin on *Candid Camera* in which hidden cameras capture public reactions to the most absurd situations: including life-size squirrels and humping bunnies. Off-guard and off-color, the show is a breath of fresh air with



COURTESY OF WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM
Dr. Niles Crane needs a checkup.

its unbridled imagination.

Pans
Frasier — The Brothers Crane wore out their welcome three seasons ago. Ratings are slipping with every aging season. The Emmys stopped showing favoritism for the cast and crew. Niles and Daphne are married, with little romantic tension. Frasier is still single. Niles battled cancer this past season. Why are we still watching this dreadful sitcom? Or better yet, why is NBC still paying \$5 million per episode to foist it upon viewers?

Anything on ABC — From ingratiating reality fare (*The Bachelor*, *Are You Hot?*) to painful sitcoms (According to Jim, *8 Simple Rules*), the family network has consistently delivered the absolute worst smorgasbord of any network, and that includes UPN. *The Evening News* features a droll Dan Rather, *Good Morning America* is anemic, *NYPD Blue* now features Zack from *Saved By The Bell*. Save for *Alias*, the only program worth TIVOing, the executives underneath the Mouse have demonstrated they couldn't find any tasty cheese.

Joe Millionaire — Yes, we watched it. In fact, everyone seemed to watch this train wreck. But after it was all over, we finally realized that this reality series was not only bad TV, but it wasn't even enjoyable bad TV.

Married By America — The worst idea since *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?* Oh, but wait, *Mr. Personality* just started. Geez, when will the awful reality programs finally die?

The Simpsons — We began the season with adoration of *The Simpsons*, now in their 14th year, and based off the first two episodes, things were groovy-gravy. However, after that, our once-favorite post-modern sitcom dropped in quality with joyless material while the voice actors seemed to be losing enthusiasm. Consider the much-ballyhooed 300th episode — what a

letdown! And these guys are renewed until season 16, d'oh!

Guilty Pleasures



COURTESY OF WWW.FEANGUDD.COM
Last year's Idol runner-up is a fave.

Trading Spaces — Hanging with Paige and the designer gang is endlessly addictive. Frank's ideas might be a little kitschy, but he's always fun to watch.

American Idol — Ro-ooo-ben! Glad to see Carmen finally go! Shout out to Kimberley Locke! While Simon seems to have lost some of his edge since the first season, we still love to tune in to jeer and cheer for the best and worst of nonprofessional talent.

Dateline NBC — Chosen for its unrelenting pride in yellow journalism. It might not be your best news source, but it is certainly a constant source of entertainment.

MTV Reality programs — Although we still hate Ellen from *Real World/Road Rules: Battle of the Sexes*, you've got to love MTV's take on "reality." *Sorority Life* is an especially amusing addition to the usual lineup. Too bad Hopkins won't be adding another gem to the mix.

Iron Chef — One of these days, you're going down, Iron. Interesting fact: Martha Stewart owns the American rights to this show, so every second you watch, you are contributing to her illegal stock portfolio. Oh well, this show is too good to stop.

MUSIC

Pics
Beck, Sea Change — Beck takes a break from his usual funky, turntable-spun cool, inspired by the break he took from his girlfriend of eight years, and gets as serious as he's been since *Mutations*. On *Sea Change* we hear Beck's true vocal abilities paired with folk guitars and soaring, space-age synth work.



COURTESY OF MATADOR RECORDS
Indie rock rules with Yo La Tengo.

The Roots, Phrenology — The Roots' newest is the next chapter in the hip-hop saga that began with Mos Def and Talib Kweli's *Black Star*. The new wave of hip-hop is a series of records that develop with novel-like intricacy, pay homage to their roots and explore the innate connections

between hip-hop and rock and roll.

Yo La Tengo, Summer Sun — Yo La Tengo's story is that of the unsung, understated and the truly intimate side of indie rock. Their new album, "a very very sad beach record" is as moving as a disc can get and still be low-key.

John Hammond, Ready for Love — Bluesman Hammond has been conquering the blues catalogue one song at a time since the '60s; on his latest, he finally shows off his own songwriting ability, exhibiting a style that is as dazzling as it is mature.

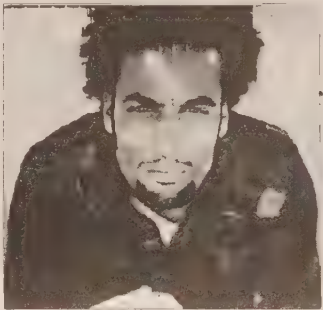
50 Cent, Get Rich or Die Tryin' — Okay, so you have to hate the corporate rap world for what it is, but this album is just damn fun to listen to. "In da Club" is the most infectious party jam since "Hot in Herre," and 50 Cent makes the list — so there!

Pans

Folk Implosion, The New Folk Implosion — It's such a shame to see a talented independent band try to adopt such a shamelessly mainstream sound. Frontman Lou Barlow has left his lo-fi roots behind for this distastefully plain and unremarkable disappointment of an album.

Patty Larkin, Red=Luck — A living tribute to the rumor that Berklee School of Music in Boston simply churns out musicians-by-number, Patty Larkin fails again with an independent radio chart-topping piece of trash.

Audioslave, Audioslave — Tom Morello's story is interesting: son of



COURTESY OF MATMOON.FREE.FR
Stop with faux-reggae, Ben.

Mau-Mau guerilla soldier, Harvard graduate, Rage Against the Machine guitarist. What is not in the least bit interesting is his super-overrated debut with ex-Soundgarden singer Chris Cornell. Bring back Zach de la Rocha.

Ben Harper, Diamonds on the Inside — When is Ben Harper going to stop subjecting us to his tiresome faux-reggae under the false pretense of "alternativeness" and just get his pitchouli-smelling ass into the grind pit at MTV Spring Break Cancun where it not only belongs, but where he clearly wants to be?

Johnny Cash, American Man IV: The Man Comes Around — Give up, Johnny. No one wants to hear you cover Depeche Mode. You're too old.

THEATER

Pics
No Exit, Hopkins Studio Players — Keelye Pratt, Megan Weil, Tarik Najeddine and Jerry Wu turned in near-professional performances and did Sartre's masterpiece justice. Under the direction of John Astin, these Studio Players proved that their future is bright indeed.

Oleanna, The Barnstormers — Both powerful and emotionally charged, two actors carry the entire play. Kateri Chambers brings a degree of professionalism and maturity not witnessed on the Hopkins stage for some time. Already claiming her spot now, she should continue to be a powerful force in the coming years of Hopkins theater.

The Book of Morton, Witness Theatre — Clever and witty, showcasing Witness at their best. This short play, based loosely off the *Book of Genesis*, had many highlights, including the voice of God, an angel dressed in headgear



VADIM GRETCHOUGHKIN/NEWS-LETTER
Jane Miller bares all in Vagina.

and an offering of Brita water in exchange for matzah. Perfectly timed with non-stop laughter, Witness proves that it has a plenty of talented writers and actors to offer to Hopkins theatre.

The Vagina Monologues — Directed by (gasp!) a man, these ladies told us how it really is Down Under with humor, grace and sympathy. Catch it next year — it's the hottest time you'll have in the Snark Theatre.

AIM Musical, Throat Culture — Throat Culture went out with a bang this year. Their AIM musical had the audience dying, especially freshman Gillian Gower's sad song of lament, "I've Been Warned."

Pans

Rumors, The Barnstormers — Despite a marvelous set, only half of the young actors (Tom West, Dave Klein and Kim Andrews) seemed interested in the material. Without any strong supporters, the play ran out of steam by the end of the first act.

Letters to Kurt, Witness Theatre — Witness delivers the least coherent musical of the year, with singing far worse than *The Secret Garden*. Honestly, next to this garbled mess, I'd pay good money to have the principals of *Garden* perform the banal lyrics and obvious thematic. Shame on Witness for selecting and opening their final showcase with a DOA stinker.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, The Barnstormers — Director Mike Pokorny's sets were pretty damn cool, but sets don't keep an audience entertained for hours. Really, hours.

Everything Else Throat Culture Does — They're just not funny.

Hedwig and the Angry Itch — Why did this production fail to exist? Whatever the reasons, a great rock musical show and an even greater idea to bring it to Hopkins both fell flat, leaving us with another tired rendition of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

—Compiled by Andy Moskowitz, Jonathan Groce, Courtney Rice, Robbie Whelan and Angela Boyd

OUT AND ABOUT MARTIN MARKS

Here it is, boys and girls, my final appearance in my home away from home, the little grey and black box on Page B7. So, here are the final picks of the year, before it's time for you underclassmen to start studying and for us seniors to stop partying and start worrying about our upcoming jobs in the food service industry.

Tonight at the **Ottobar**, Mary Frankster will be doing a solo acoustic set with **Mike Watt** and **Slow Jet**. Hitting the road on a solo tour after a rather odd breakup from the rest of the band, this show should showcase her punk, folk and funk influences. Doors open at 8 p.m., with the show starting at 9 p.m. Check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more details.

On Friday night at the **Ottobar**, **Big in Japan** will be marking their prodigal return to Baltimore. Though I haven't seen these guys, I have several friends who swear by the shows these guys put on. Again, check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for details.

And, if last week's Toots and the Maytals appearance wasn't enough roots reggae for you, the **Wailers**, of Bob Marley fame, will be coming to the **Recher Theatre** on Sunday night. Ever since getting together in the late 1960s, the Wailers have been stirring it up (little darling) since they hit mainstream fame in the 1970s. Check out <http://www.rechertheatre.com> for more information.

Shakespeare on the Quad



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER
Freshman Kateri Chambers and senior Brandom Nielsen play A Midsummer's Night Dream during Fair.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thriller without Identity

BY JONATHAN GROCE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Ten, nine, eight, seven ... as the 10 random strangers in *Identity* realize that they are targets for elimination, this new suspense thriller spooks its audience. At this moment of realization, we find ourselves in a loose adaptation of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* (a.k.a. *Ten Little Indians*). Now, this moment could invoke one of two sentiments: nostalgia for traditional murder mystery yarns or disappointment that the rest of the film would stutter until the blank identification of the culprit. The former crowd hangs on to red herrings, while the latter resents the awful predictability of the next hour and a half.

And so it goes with *Identity*, which opened on April 25. Directed by James Mangold, the film delivers John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Ray Liotta and assorted actors trapped in a deadly game of cat and mouse. The plot is threadbare, as expected, and characterization is nearly nonexistent. Everyone seems to be walking around as doomed stereotypes, lost lambs to the slaughter. Oddly enough, this may be appropriate — or not; the film is not entirely sure of its own logical universe.

The 10 strangers, one by one, arrive at a creepy motel during a disastrous thunderstorm, and their meeting each other is a series of complex twists of fate. A family of three loses a tire in the storm, leading to a roadside collision and a near-fatal accident. All involved parties take refuge at a festering motel. Meanwhile, an officer and his recently paroled convict, with roads closed, are forced to pull into the same motel. Add a freshly

married-in-Vegas couple and the disturbing, kleptomaniacal motel manager, and our 10 little Indians are ready for some slicing and dicing.

Once John Cusack, a limo driver, discovers the head of a washed-up movie star in a washing machine, the hunt for the killer begins, and a psychotic convict has escaped. Apparently, our lovable convict (Jake Busey — son of actor Gary Busey) was responsible for mass homicide — at a motel, of all places. This spine-chilling revelation leads to predictable dialogue and contrived scenarios. When a series of motel keys are discovered at the scene of the crimes — keys to rooms 10, nine, eight, etc — the audience develops standard expectations for the rest of the film. Luckily, Mangold disorients the audience with a curve or two (or three).

Numerologists across the nation are sure to find this fascinating, but as Mangold guides us along each twisted deviation from out expected narrative, with matter-of-fact condescension mind you, we can't help but throw up our hands and abandon the role of amateur sleuth.

The allusions to Agatha Christie, unfortunately, do not materialize after the first hour. Instead of carefully plotted clues and dialogue, the film prefers to blindside us with the truth behind every door, playing a game of tug and war with audience emotions. Mangold invokes Hitchcock and employs a carefully executed homage to *Psycho*. However, his post-modern interpretation of that seminal 1960 shocker feels borrowed from a critical reading of Hitchcock's thematic complications. Admirable in this pursuit, screenwriter Michael Cooney

deserves credit for delivering a cinematic idea without simply transporting *The Sixth Sense* and *The Others* into a Hitchcockian mindset. The whirlwind screenplay is fascinatingly fresh, except we don't realize this until the film finally ends.

From this point on, I have to be elusive, and those who have seen the film will know exactly what I am talking about. This is one of those critic-proof films, as it dares the journalist to reveal anything about the convoluted story before the audience can participate in the exchange. Endlessly precise in its convictions, the film defies discussion unless you share the secret, and even at that point, not everything is clear.

By the time Mangold has attacked the audience with his sleights of hand, and the pieces of the identity crises on the screen start to assemble into a clear, fine path to redemption, the film stumbles even further with an extremely condescending tone that panders to the viewer. Yes, we get it, and we are admittedly intrigued with the secret of *Identity*, but is that all there is? As soon as we figure it out, we resent the simplicity of the filmmakers to explain everything with excruciating detail to the dumb audience.

Finally, after the goose bumps disappear, a craving for more twists and enrapturing theories arrives. Instead of employing a Lynchian abstract quality, or even an ambiguity found in Hitchcock, the film turns into a literal modernist narrative, and nothing more. What could have resulted in an endlessly fascinating film turns into a watered-down version of a Psychology 101 lecture.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ROTTENTOMATOES.COM](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)
Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor star in this weak homage to '60s sex comedies.

Shoddy Love imitates better films

BY JONATHAN GROCE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

When Hollywood producers resort to a rehash of a particular genre from the old studio days for popcorn profit, you have to wonder if they are plumb out of ideas. In the case of *Down With Love*, the brash sex comedies of the early 1960s are dug up for romantic comedy fodder, and director Peyton Reed (*Bring It On*) makes sure to squeeze in all the clichés that audiences still enjoy. Unfortunately, the joy of the Doris Day and Rock Hudson films is lost, buried in a colorful amalgam of cheeky furniture, itchy terry cloth and artificial studio sets.

Renee Zellweger plays Barbara Novak, a not-so-modern Doris Day figure. Novak is a beautiful blonde with spunk entangled in a battle of the sexes with Ewan McGregor's Catcher Block, a debonair playboy who alternates women at the change of his pressed shirts. Novak arrives in New York City, 1962, with a radical feminist text, *Down With Love*, encouraging women to abandon subservience, embrace sexual instincts and ignore the love impulse (also known as the marriage institution). Men's magazine columnist Block decides to expose Novak by making her fall in love. Complications ensue — Block assumes a mild-mannered alternate identity, and his friends Peter (*Frasier*'s David Hyde Pierce) and Vikki (Sarah Paulson) complicate the script. Eventually, the homage to *Pillow Talk* and assorted other Day-Hudson films fumbles into a farce of depressing proportions.

Reed's pastiche shouldn't have been so joyless. Todd Haynes proved last fall with *Far From Heaven* that homage need only be the jumping board to examine more salient matters. *Love* is trapped in the innocuous sex comedy mode, and unfortunately fails to realize any potential for social commentary. *Pillow Talk* may still be considered fluff, but at least its fluff with a feminist touch, and the performances from Hudson and Day were

infinitely more inspiring.

To Reed's credit, the art direction on *Down With Love* is superb, with every kitschy detail drawing attention to itself, which the film's plot and actors should be doing in accordance. Reed and his production team have done their homework, replicating the furniture, elaborate interior decorating and costume selections for maximum effect. The universe of the film, an aggressive pastel rainbow, requires viewers to avert their eyes slightly whenever Renee sports a hot pink outfit.

Meanwhile, the split-screens, musical dance sequences and rear projection shots all contribute to a formal replication of *That Touch of Mink* and *Please Don't Eat The Daisies*. One particular highlight: a split-screen sexual innuendo that tames the recent *Austin Powers* shadow game for campy effect. Elsewhere, nostalgia for the highly artificial composition of rear projection permeates the screen, and if anything, this film would love to revive this forgotten, pre-digital Hollywood standard.

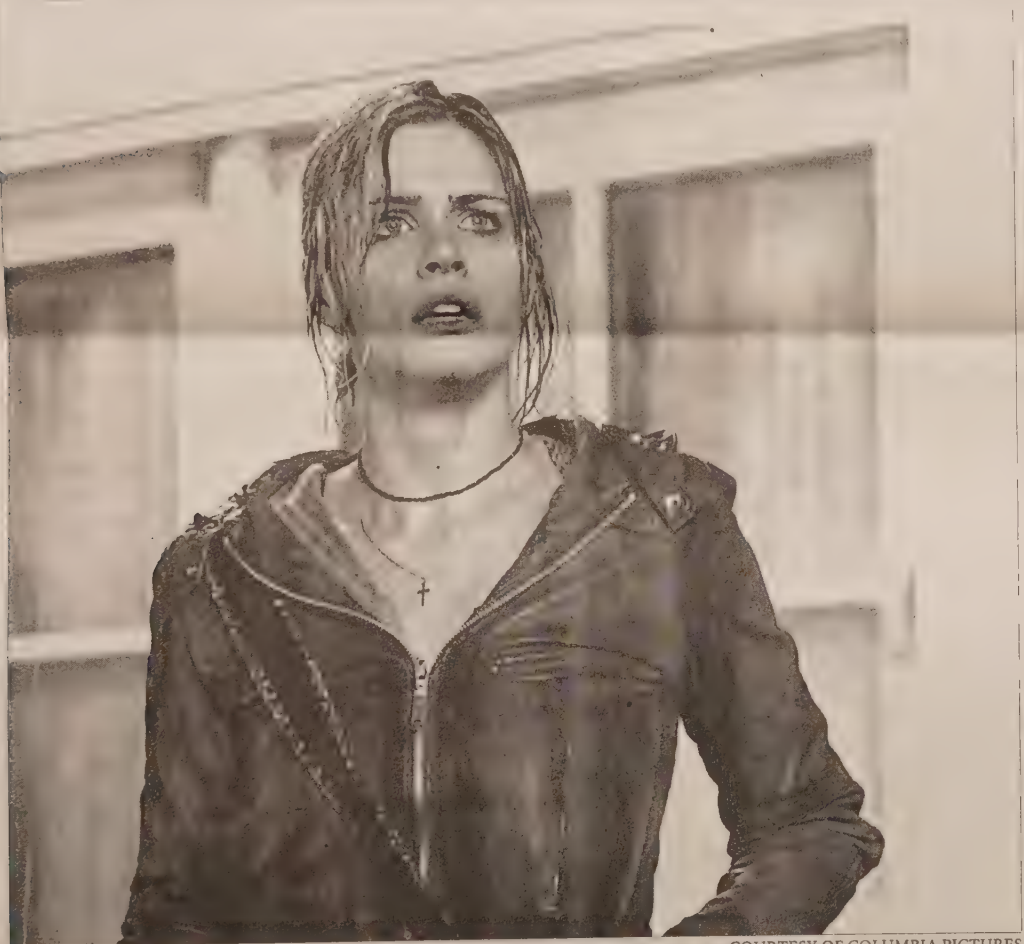
Unfortunately, the film has little else on its agenda. The tired plot cannot be ignored, even as homage to tired romantic comedy screenplays. The innuendo-heavy dialogue is nicely irreverent, but after 20 minutes, the old jokes simply feel ancient. Screenwriters Eve Ahlert and Dennis Drake seem determined to recreate that 60s touch with very little tongue-in-cheekiness. The dialogue is so flat and precise that the actors should be playing the film as camp. Otherwise, the screenplay just fizzles, expecting the audience to appreciate its project at face value without actually entertaining us.

Reed apparently decided on a winking homage, rather than a campy approach to the sexual innuendo. Zellweger and McGregor deliver their lines with a matter-of-fact quality that fails to reveal any knowledge of what they hint at. In a film such as this, the characters are so blatantly sexually

frustrated that a bit more passion should be thrown into throw away lines like this Zellweger reference to an endowed telescope, "I've never seen one this big," McGregor plays the film as a second-rate Cary Grant, and his interpretation of the suave player is only slightly more convincing than his ability to generate real emotion (as when he appears to fall in love with Novak). Zellweger is a fine actress, but with all the makeup applied to her distinct face, I couldn't keep her *Chicago* dummy look out of my head.

David Hyde Pierce, on the other hand, manages to fulfill the bookish, effeminate sidekick, Peter, to satisfying results. Often, the film resorts to farcical situations that rival those on *Frasier*, and his version of Niles Crane is allowed to play up his homosexual mannerisms to decent effect here — "Who are you calling a Nancy?" His object of pursuit, Sarah Paulson, rounds out the cast as sexually frustrated Vikki, a *Down With Love* girl afraid to give into the temptation of marriage to Peter. Paulson manages to outshine even Zellweger, but again, if Reed had allowed his actors to offer campy performances, the entire lot may have improved drastically.

Down With Love fails to arouse any interest due to this crucial impotence. With a screenplay of sexual innuendo and allusions to the battle of the proverbial sexes, you would expect the film to find an animal charge hidden under all the terry cloth and martinis. Instead, the painful truth is that the film's surprising feminist politics, which are nearly incoherent, prevents the lead characters from true reconciliation. The final third plays up the rational to explain the comedy of errors with confessional monologues, but with very little happening elsewhere, the film ends on a hollow note. Unable to recreate the joyful and tongue-in-cheek essence of its subjects, Reed and company have managed to attack them with an expensive, yet poor imitation.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES
Amanda Peet gets all wet in a watered down psychological thriller. Or is it a slasher flick? Or a comedy?

Unearthing the hidden roots of science fiction, fantasy films

BY ZAINAB CHEEMA
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Opening credits run across the darkened screen. The audience draws a collective breath of anticipation. The stark techno beat of the musical score brings the blood beating to your very fingertips. The storytelling on celluloid wraps you up in its weird logic, and dream and reality start dissolving into across your retina.

The story winds its way to that moment of sizzling white electricity; the hero's human genes get scrambled, the result of a terrible accident, or biological gift. Or the rug gets pulled from under the hero's feet, and he discovers that the universe he called home is a technological wasteland. The boundaries of reality explode as a regular guy discovers the demonic powers that lift him above the ordinary.

Sound familiar? This is the stuff dreams — and wildly successful box office profits — are made of. Recent Hollywood fare has overwhelmingly tilted towards the fantasy blockbuster: *The Matrix*, *X-Men*, *Spider-Man* and *Daredevil* have all raked in an indecent hoard of profits over the past few years. This summer's movies only prove that today is the age of "take that, Newton": *The Matrix* sequels, *The Hulk*, *X-Men 2*, *The Bulletproof Monk* and *The League of Extraordi-*

nary Gentlemen all gyrate in the electric blue horizon, not too far from a theatre near you.

After pushing the whole violence-is-art concept to levels of supernatural elegance in *The Matrix*, Neo and his gang are returning to save the world — the real world, that is — in earnest. In one of the most anticipated sequels of all time, our old friends Trinity and Morpheus must race against killer machines that have located New Zion and are digging down to destroy it. As they struggle to spirit the Keymaker, an Asian guy with keys to all the machine world, out of the Matrix, Neo rushes in to save the day. *Matrix Reloaded* delivers the magic of *The Matrix* in bulk; you'll get gravity defying gymnastics, ballet-like kung fu and super speed flight from the man who's found self-confidence as the One.

If we could pick a guy who takes our modern problems with anger management to a whole new level, we would probably pick the Hulk. Bruce Banner is a genetic scientist tortured by inner demons — the poor guy knows nothing about his past and was mercilessly teased by his classmates — until he gets splashed with gamma rays from a freak lab accident. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*'s Ang Lee whips up Stan Lee's romantic fantasy of a shy, lonely man who's explosive rage turns him into half-monster, half-superhero.

X-Men 2 continues with the story of our band of favorite mutants, as they deal with the hysteria of the public and discrimination from a hostile government à la Ashcroft. *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* is an oddball team made of the famous "types" from the Victorian dreamscape — the Safari hunter, vampiress, Indian scientist, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Dorian Gray — plus Agent Sawyer, who's basically Tom Sawyer reinvented as the super American spy. Sounds far out? You'll have to see it to believe it.

Not to say that fantasy is completely the new kid on the block, folks. It came packaged in the solid, farm boy morality of *Super-Man* in the Cold War days, and flavored with the edgy, film noir flair of *Batman* in the more ambiguous '90s. And if we really want to look past Marvel — What? Stan Lee didn't get off that ark with Noah? — the marriage between film and fantasy is at least as old as Georges Méliès, the key movie maker of the early silent film era.

Méliès, a magician and master illusionist in real life, was Hollywood's first techno-wizard; his lovely, whimsical special effects are still remembered in the annals of the silver screen. Fantasy has always been part of the movie experience, but it got mainstream with George Lucas' space opera, *Star Wars*. Lucas proved that cinema can dissolve the line between the

real and unreal in ways that haven't even been imagined yet, and stood for a new generation of directors who said, to heck with building sets — you can design your own realm to tell your story.

But our age is the age of the superhero, and not just any superhero either. It's a dias of morally impeccable Kryptonians and Park Avenue playboys with mental problems, and hola to the average Joe Bloggs who discovers he's not so average after all.

I mean, think about it. *Spider-Man* rode the freight train to success on Peter Parker, the science geek you probably ignored in high school. Matt Murdock is a blind lawyer. Bruce Banner is the shy guy with massive social adjustment problems. *The Matrix*'s Neo was a computer consultant in America's Dilbert-influenced corporate rat maze.

Sure, the X-men are "born" mutant, but the whole converse is about ordinary men and women dealing with hate and suspicion from a public who sees them as less human than they really are.

And Kar, the guy who gets trained by Chow-yun Fat in *The Bulletproof Monk* to be the next guardian of the yada-yada scrolls (they're mystical, they're Tibetan, and that's all you probably need to know about them), is a streetwise American pickpocket. He's played by Seann William Scott, whom we all remember affectionately

as the guy who guzzled semen beer in *American Pie*. Need I say more?

You'd have to be blind — discounting "radar" senses of sexy, radioactive waste doused lawyers — not to pick up on the pattern. The fringe heroes of Marvel are seriously edging out the heavy weights, and the independents are turning into cult heroes. While there are some serious gradations of "normal" at work here, it's really about the ordinary guy tumbling off his couch and popping down Alice's rabbit hole. It's about Christ returning as the last guy you'd expect, to save the world from destruction and, ultimately, us from our own boring routines.

After all, in just one of the electric, liquid-time sequences in *The Matrix*, Neo lives a thousand of our tiny, "God, my history paper is due next week" lives. *Spider-Man* swinging around the rooftops of New York with his unbelievable, plastic grace, lifts himself up far above bills, responsibilities and mind numbing chores. And the Hulk lets loose all the frustrations we feel inside, shrugging off tanks and taking on the whole U.S. military with his berserker rage.

These characters are masks for us ordinary people who chance to live our own secret dreams and desires on celluloid. The Everyman trend here only goes to show how in tune Hollywood is with the normal guy's psyche. And if our heroes are coming closer

to our own selves, at the same time our ambitions are shooting to new heights. Every story is about apocalypse, one man or one band fighting off the end of the world for the rest of humanity. Neo pits himself against the machines, the Hulk faces a power crazed military, and the X-men sleuth against an unknown mutant threat and a government bent on destroying civil liberties.

Technology is broadening what fantasy can and cannot do; if the director is the magician who must make it all believable, he's coming armed with stronger, speedier wands. It's helped us defy natural laws as never before, and reinvent our bodies to the borderline of being human. It's helped bring our mythic dream spaces to life. But then, it's also helped us reconnect with our all too human desires and struggles that take place behind a mask or in an alternate universe.

The most delicious irony, of course is that fantasy isn't all make believe. Speaking out may get you in trouble these days, but the whammy of fantasy films express for all of us the worries and concerns of the Everyman against an aggressive government and military-industrial complex out on the rampage. President Bush, just how do you plan to argue with the symbolism, mythology and political commentary packed in the *Matrix Reloaded*?

CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope



ARIES: (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Features in your life this month: binge drinking, unemployment, and increasing despair. Good luck, graduating senior!



TAURUS: (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Editor duties in your future include shirking your responsibility for the horoscopes and forcing the copy staff to cover your ass.



GEMINI: (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
"Monster" is not a term of endearment, even when applied to your prodigious nose. But hey, if you're in to that, check out an AEPI party.



CANCER: (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Once you realize that a desk chair can never reciprocate your love, the chaffing will stop and your suite mates will leave their doors open.



LEO: (JULY 23-AUGUST 22)
Got milk? No? How about a summer internship in Washington. I'm still looking, and I'm starting to get desperate ...



VIRGO: (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)
Expelled from Hopkins for staging an orgy on the beach, you will discover that happiness requires animal companionship — Mad Dog.



LIBRA: (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)
For the next month, try to set a tangible goal: stop being French, or at least stop listening to horrible German house music so your suite mates can sleep.



SCORPIO: (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)
Bringing your parents down for a visit? Remember that nothing says "I'm not wasting tuition" like bong hits and petty vandalism.



SAGITTARIUS: (NOVEMBER 22 - DEC. 21)
Two things to consider as you get ready for your summer job: nobody cares about your future plans, and "research" is just another word for "bring me my coffee!"



CAPRICORN: (DEC. 23 - JANUARY 19)
Guns don't kill people, but your story about eating too much foie gras with your brother just might. I sense a vomiting boyfriend in your future ... again.



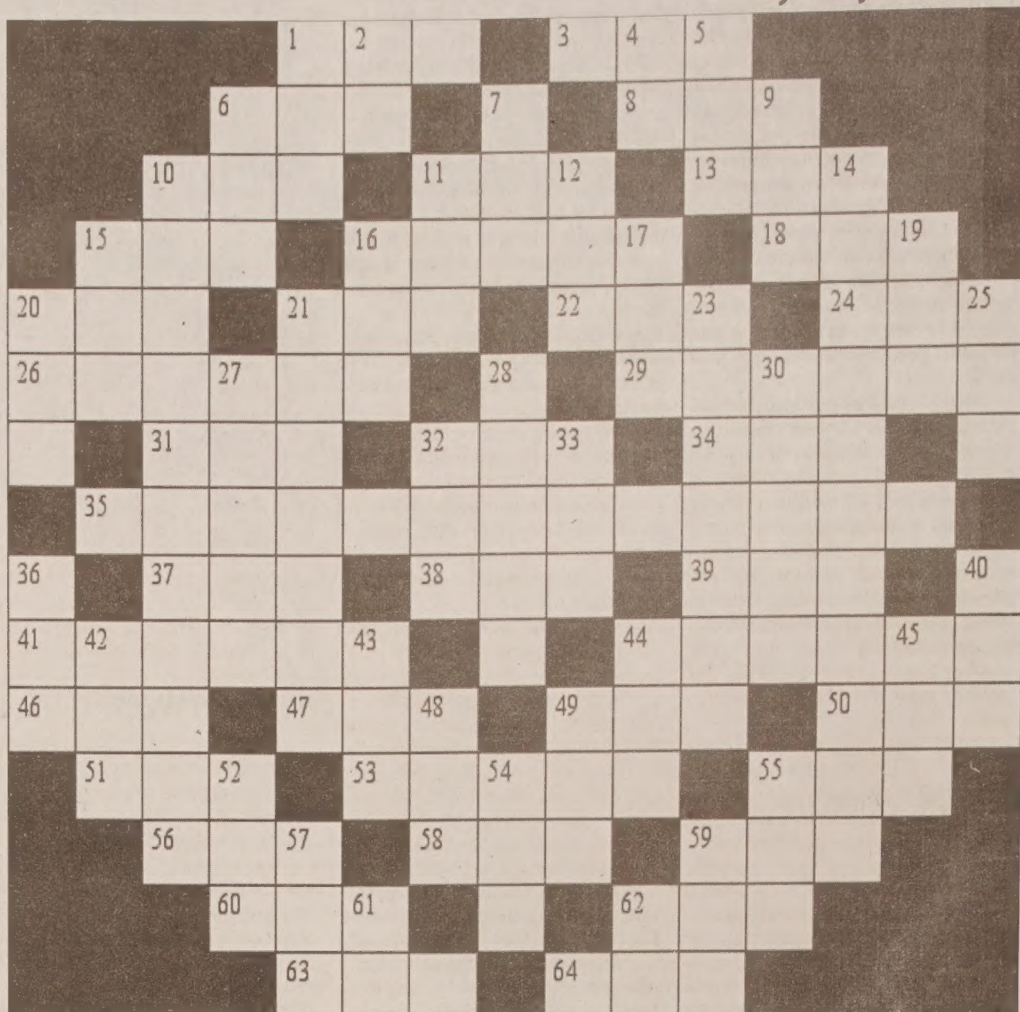
AQUARIUS: (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)
To discover the secret of the stars, ask the guy outside Rofo for advice. At least he won't attempt to make jokes about the scrawniness of his friends.



PISCES: (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)
School is almost out, but that doesn't mean the process of learning has to stop. This summer, develop valuable skills like music piracy and frotteurism.

Crossword: Summertime

by Emily Nalven



Across

- amount or object risked in a wager; a stake
- file format extension for pictures
- type of glove that catches baseballs
- type of summer drink normally made with citrus fruits
- A tiny round mark made by a pointed instrument; a spot
- prefix meaning three
- Austrian Shilling (abbr)
- author Fleming, swimmer Thorpe and actor Zeiring all have this name in common
- place to relax and rest in
- beverage for the bar
- thing to look up at when your resting on your back
- to petition a court for redress of grievances or recovery of a right
- know the ropes; know the - and outs of something (one word)
- measure of a pitcher's performance obtained by dividing the total of earned runs allowed by the total of innings pitched and multiplying (abbr)
- make an error (two words)
- one who works under water, especially one equipped with breathing apparatus and weighted clothing
- an enlarged and muscular sac like organ of the alimentary canal; the principal organ of digestion
- aspire or point toward; like an arrow
- main character from Great Expectations
- what JHU students will go on come May 15 (two words)
- female deer
- opposite of bottom
- civil engineering laboratory (abbr)
- guides by means of a device such as a rudder, paddle, or wheel
- sign of twins born during the end of July or beginning of August
- an indefinitely long period of time; an age
- to be placed or positioned
- German article
- to cover lightly with or as if with a moist substance
- international tennis federation (abbr)
- great summer weather; bright, cheerful
- item used at baseball games
- like father like - (one word)
- sound a sheep makes
- speak or utter
- even or on par
- not boring, interesting, cool
- permit or allow
- what you want to happen to your skin when on vacation

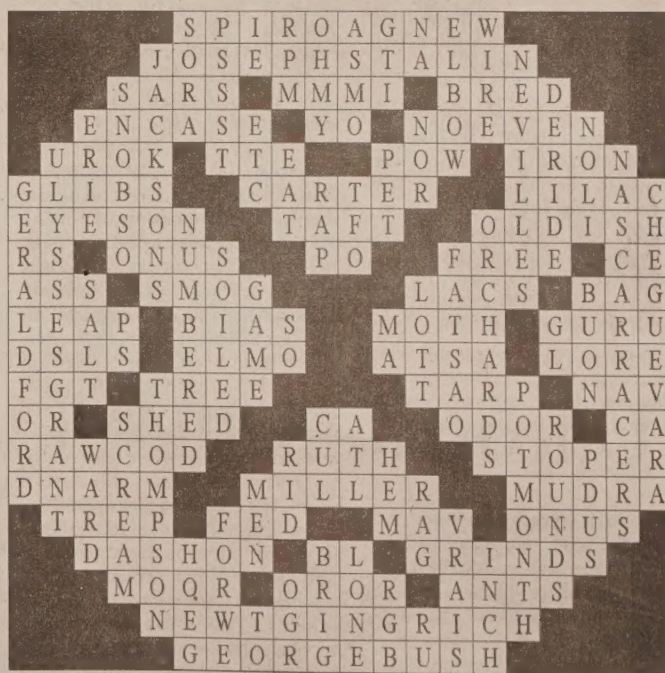
Down

- tiny piece, iota
- alien in a Steven Spielberg film
- Iowa (abbr)
- Food and Drug Administration (abbr)
- first day of the work week (abbr)
- top of a bikini
- seventh letter of the Greek alphabet
- campers who don't stay over night (two words)

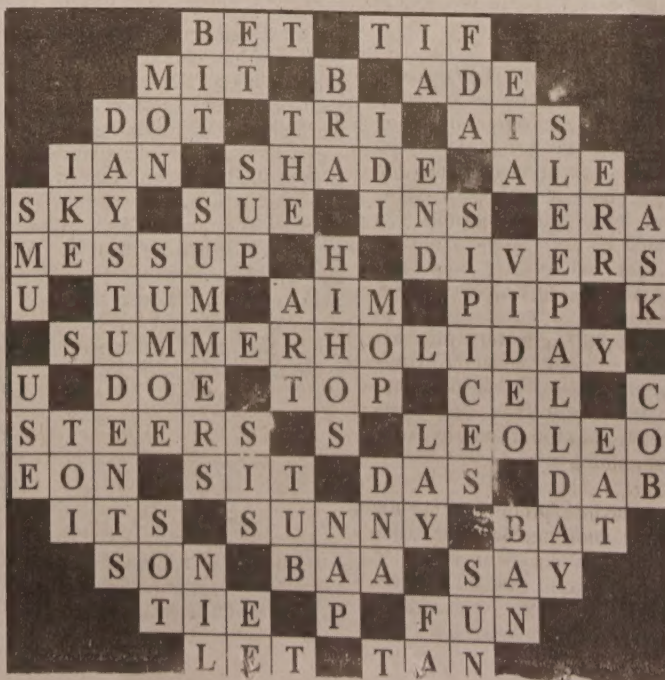
- Used before singular or plural nouns and denote particular, specified persons or things
- Ugandan boxer who later became President and invaded Tanzania only to lose the war
- what people like to do on their summer vacations to relax (three words)
- first name of Tina Turner's ex
- slang form of saying 'how are you?'
- finish, complete, over
- make a mistake
- Southern Methodist University (abbr)
- when people go to camps
- food to eat when it gets very hot (two words)
- question or demand
- type of Japanese wrestler + the fifth letter of the English alphabet
- the seven dwarfs sang this re-

- frain in Sleeping Beauty (plural)
- something to put into the VCR; antiquated version of a DVD
- painting, drawing or sculpture
- wash, wipe or clean
- employ, utilize or exercise
- corn-on-the- (one word)
- your (French)
- opposite of bro
- it down on the line (one word)
- put food in your mouth
- place to take a bath
- it contains all of our genetic material
- a drunkard
- take a quick break to sleep
- forbid, outlaw or prohibit
- zip, nada or nothing
- closest star to planet earth
- wide shoe width or abbr for an engineering discipline that studies a lot of circuitry
- do-re-mi- -so-la-ti-do

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEKS PUZZLE

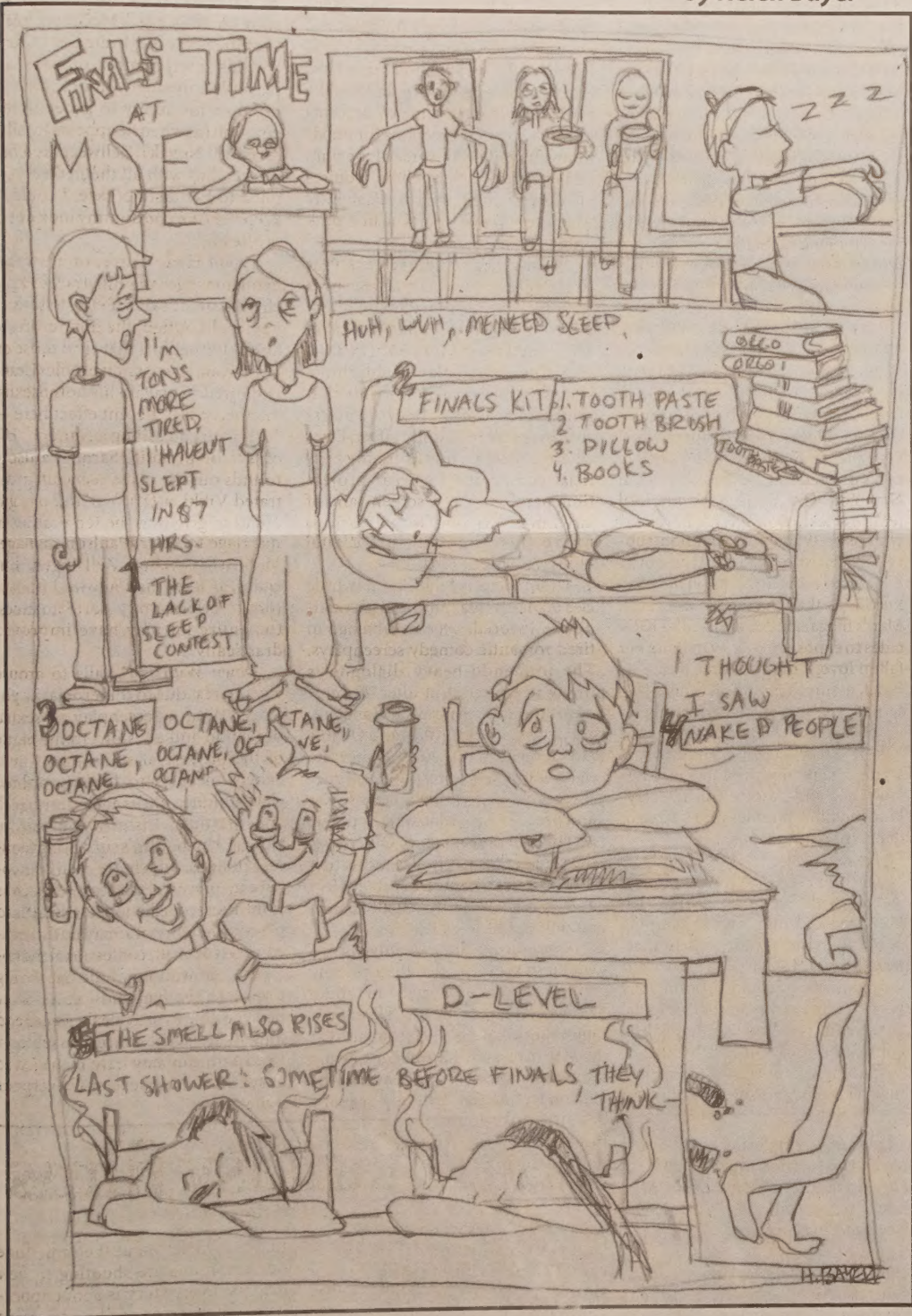


SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEKS PUZZLE



The Senior Experience Part 1

by Helen Bayer



The Senior Experience Part II

by Helen Bayer



CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

Fiji Islander

Prepared to spend an afternoon among the tiki torches and exotic environs of the President's Garden? Well this Saturday, May 3, the Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) Fraternity kicks off its annual Fiji Islander Party at 3 p.m. just a stone's throw away from the upper quad. The Islander is open to all at the modest price of \$5 per person, or \$3 for Greeks. The Fiji Islander barbecue offers an excellent way to unwind after watching the Men's Lacrosse team soundly defeat Loyola this weekend at Homecoming.

A veritable cornucopia of traditional American, artery clogging foods will be available, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and a pig roast. Soda will be available but the soft drinks table will most likely be abandoned in favor of Fiji's own version of the Beer Garden. A professional DJ will make sure that everyone has the beats required for an authentic barbecue while all manner of summer sports such as volleyball, soccer and Frisbee will provide ways to keep the dreaded "beer belly" at bay.

While in the past the Student Council has helped fund this homecoming event, this year Fiji received no funding from them. The Inter-Fraternity Council and Greek Life, as well as the JHU Alumni Association, all stepped in to help make the Fiji Islander possible this year.

In the past, this fixture of the Hopkins Homecoming scene has attracted about 300 people. Fiji brother Todd Hippe stated that this year they expect at least the previously stated number, with the possibility of additional attendance, bringing the total attendance closer to 400. Although the Fiji Islander will not have hot tubs as they have in past years, the Islander will be an excellent opportunity to take a break after classes end and before the usual finals cram session. Don't forget, before you leave the house for the game, grab some money and your ID for a guaranteed fun time!

For more information on the Islander e-mail Todd Hippe at AD218@aol.com.

-Patrick Kerns

Alumni Weekend

Can't imagine your 10 year college reunion, let alone your highschool one? Can you even compose the thought of your one year reunion just yet? This upcoming weekend's homecoming weekend is also Reunion 2003 for all Hopkins alums. Members of Alpha Phi, the *News-Letter*, the Hopkins band and the football team, amongst all other clubs and organizations on campus, will return between May 1 and May 4 to revisit the school and see old friends and faculty. While many of the activities including the AEPi bagel lunch and the Alpha Phi barbecue are only for past and current members, some alumni activities are open to everyone.

The BME department is hosting a research symposium for BME majors, both current and graduated. It begins on May 2 at the School of Medicine and continues in Clark Hall on May 3. It will be an exhibition on research and a panel concerning careers and future BME research. If you are a BME major or are considering this major, call 955-3132 or 516-8126 for more information.

Murder on the Nile, an Agatha Christie play, directed by John Lehmeier, will be performed at the Merrick Barn beginning May 1 and running until May 4. For tickets, call 516-7159 or e-mail thehop@jhu.edu.

Join the Hopkins Hillel for a festive Shabbat dinner at the Bunting-Myerhoff

Interfaith Center on May 3 at 7 p.m. There will be viewings of the new hillel and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg building for Jewish Life 2 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The Student Leadership Recognition Program will recognize award recipients on May 1 at 6 p.m. in Shriver Hall. Presentations will be made from the Student Council, the senior class, an alumni class, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Student Life, Greek Life, Homewood Arts Programs, Athletics and Recreation Sports, Residential Life and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

The Woodrow Wilson undergraduate research program poster session will take place on Friday, May 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion in Levering Hall. Come see the research results of 25 leading A&S senior undergraduate researchers in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. Working with Hopkins faculty mentors, these 25 seniors have spent the past three or four years focusing on their own independent research. The first hour and a half will be open to all members of the Hopkins community to stroll through the displays and ask questions to the individual students about their particular research. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. there will also be selected research presentations and an award ceremony.

If an organization you're a part of isn't mentioned above, visit <http://alumni.jhu.edu/homewood/affinities.html>. Nearly every group is having a gathering specific to alumni and current club members. Chances are an event is planned for your group as well.

Essential to homecoming is the lacrosse game against Loyola at 3 p.m., so make sure to get a ticket in advance and head over before you enter into the world of years past at Johns Hopkins University!

- Mallery Lerner

Freshman Week

Writing an abundance of term papers and cramming for upcoming final exams has certainly made students across the University eager to kick off summer vacation. Before you get too caught up in the stress of the end of the semester, allow yourself some break time during Freshman week. The first Freshmen Week of Hopkins history is giving members of the Class of 2006 a chance to relax and enjoy the last days of the school year with their friends before they end their first year at Hopkins.

Taking place this Monday through Sunday, Freshmen Week is a seven-day event filled with activities, games, food, music and numerous opportunities to bond as a class.

The events were planned and organized by Class of 2006 Social Board chairs Ash Brown and Bryan Kaminski, and by class officers President Christal Ng, Vice President Hallie Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer Rob Freundlich, and class representatives Nina Kumar, Meg McInstosh and Aaron Levy-Forsythe.

"There has never been a Freshman Week before, so our class is hoping to start an end-of-the-year tradition," said Jackson.

Freshmen Week started off on Tuesday afternoon with a gigantic game of Twister outside on the quad, and continued with a study break Wednesday evening on Q Level of the library. In addition, class tee shirts sporting the slogan "oh six. oh yea." were sold throughout the week outside of Terrace Court dining hall.

This Thursday evening, all freshmen are invited to take a break from dining hall dinner and come out to the quad from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a free savory

barbeque and picnic, with Frisbee and football games to play on the side.

Freshmen Week will culminate on Sunday evening with the class formal. The formal will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Glass Pavilion in Levering Hall. The formal is guaranteed to be an exciting way to end homecoming weekend. Admission is \$2 at the door. The profits from the exciting dance-filled evening will be donated to a charity of the class's choice. The formal, which will feature a DJ and food (both catered and hand-made by class officers!), is a new event at Hopkins, but was planned after many students expressed interest in such an activity.

"It's something new, and we are all really excited to see what happens," said Jackson.

If you weren't planning on going, then think again. Dates aren't hard to find when you live amongst an abundance of freshman who are also eager to go.

For more information and a schedule of Freshmen Week events, visit the Student Council Web site at <http://www.jhu.stuco.org>.

- Ellen Minnehan

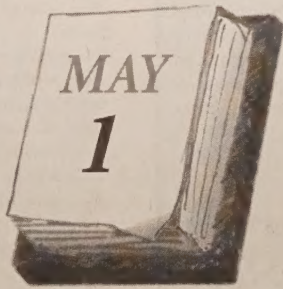
Homecoming Weekend

As the lacrosse team prepares for their last home game of the regular season, Homecoming looms large on the horizon. Marking not only Homewood campus' send-off of the wildly successful Blue Jays lacrosse team into the play-off season, Homecoming also serves as an opportunity for the return of Hopkins alumni to their alma mater. Full of festivities and feasting, activities for alumni and their family range from star-gazing at the observatory in Bloomberg to lectures by past and present professors. The school will also be hosting a golf-outing for returning graduates, as well as a plethora of meals from its' Crab Feast on Friday, May 2, to champagne brunch on the morning of Sunday, May 4.

Serving as the crown jewel of Homecoming weekend is the lacrosse game. It is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 3 at 3 p.m. The Blue Jays will be hosting the Loyola College Greyhounds. Traditionally packing fans in every nook and cranny of Homewood Field, this year's Homecoming game will be broadcast locally on ABC, channel 2. For those who are unable to squeeze through the crowd in to the stadium, don't forget to tune in. Opening, as per usual, with the singing of the national anthem, the Homecoming game also hosts a short parade around the track by returning members of all classes celebrating a reunion this year. In this case, it will be all those graduating in years ending in three and eight. Also crucial to the Homecoming festivities is the annual crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen. The exciting results will be announced during halftime on game day. With several outstanding candidates in the running for both titles the election, which took place at voting boxes in front of Levering Hall over the course of a week, it is sure to be an exceedingly close race. Homecoming is the culmination of so much work on the part of many people in the Hopkins community and will be a fantastic way for Homewood campus to unite, appreciate and celebrate the Hopkins community and a more than just successful athletic season.

- Kimberly Phelan

CALENDAR



MAY 1 TO 7

Thursday, May 1

ON CAMPUS

11:30 a.m. The **Levering Mattinee** is showing *Barbershop* in the Arellano Theater in Levering Hall. For more information, contact Will Clemm at 410-516-8197.

12:00 p.m. The first **Mattin Munch** is taking place today. It is a monthly presentation and discussion of ideas, trends and events in the arts. You have to bring your own lunch, although light refreshments will be provided. It is free and open to the Johns Hopkins University community. The event will be at Mattin Center, suite 226 in the Offit building on the second floor. For more information, check out their Web site at <http://digitalmedia.jhu.edu> or contact Deborah Buffalin at 410-516-3817. You can also contact her at buffalin@jhu.edu.

4:00 p.m. It's **Freshman Week** and the social board of the class of 2006 is throwing a barbecue on the freshman quad. There will be no charge for the food, so go ahead and meal-equiv while you're at it! There will also be a football/frisbee tournament. The winners will get prizes. The food and games will be available until 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Hallie Jackson at Socialboard06@yahoo.com.

4:00 p.m. Get your **Digital Video Camera Certification** at the Digital Media Center. You get hands-on workshop that goes over camera operation, shooting techniques and project management. Once you've completed this workshop you should be authorized to borrow miniDV and DVCAM video cameras from the Digital Media Center. To sign up for the workshop, call 410-516-3817. For more information, check out <http://digitalmediacenter.jhu.edu>. Don't forget, it's free, so if you're into movie making and production, you really have nothing to lose!

5:00 p.m. You may not have made it to the **Computing Machinery Discussions** meeting last week, but not to worry, they are weekly! The meeting will be held in Shaffer, room 301. You can visit their Web site at <http://www.acm.jhu.edu>. You should find a mailing list and meeting information there. You can also e-mail them at chair@acm.jhu.edu if you have any questions.

6:00 p.m. **The Catholic Community** is providing a free dinner and a fun activity every Thursday night during their Newman Night. The event occurs at the Newman House after the 5 p.m. mass. The Newman House is located at 2941 N. Charles St. If you have any questions, e-mail skip@jhu.edu or look at their Web site, <http://www.catholic.jhu.edu>.

6:00 p.m. Multiyear survey of Baltimore's architecture and urbanism with "**Baltimore and Philadelphia: Architecture and Urbanism, 1820-1880**," a comparative study of the 19th-century built environments of Baltimore and Philadelphia. The speakers will be Dr. Jeffrey A. Cohen, senior lecturer at Bryn Mawr College, and Charles B. Duff Jr., president of Jubilee Baltimore Inc., and executive director of Midtown Development Corporation in Baltimore. The first lecture in the series is titled "The Broader View: Spatial Organization and Change, 1820-1880," an examination of the patterns of land use in these two explosively growing port cities. Each lecture will be held in AMR 1. Admission is free for students. For more information or to make reservations call 410-516-8639.

7:30 p.m. Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize winning play, **The Death of Salesman**, has come to Hopkins. The Johns Hopkins University Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater Company is bringing us *Death of Salesman* with a cast including Hopkins students such as Vlad Cadet and Tom West. The play will be showing in the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Center. It is directed by Benedict A. Dorsey and assistant directed by Kara Lawrence. Students must pay \$3 for entrance, and everyone else will be charged \$5. For more information, call 410-516-5473.

OFF CAMPUS

8:00 p.m. The Baltimore Theater Project presents **Air Dance Bournasconi**. The aerial dance troupe

will perform a combination of modern dance and acrobatics, using low-flying trapeze, aerial fabric, hoops, bungee, rope and harness. They will perform three new dances, "Back Then and Now," "Harnessing the Ocean" and "Spinning Silk." They will also be performing their two signature dances, "Echoing Pathways" and "Expanding Circumstances." Students will only have to pay \$10 if tickets are ordered in advance through the box office at 410-752-8558. For more information, call 410-377-4199.

Friday, May 2

ON CAMPUS

9:00 a.m. It's the Johns Hopkins University **Peace Festival** in the Recreation Center and the Lacrosse Field. All you have to do is go help with the Peace Festival, an annual event that is celebrating their fourth anniversary this year. Peace by Peace, the sponsors of the festival, teach peaceful conflict resolution to grade students. All you have to do is volunteer to play games with fourth and fifth graders and to work on craft projects. Basically, you get

to have fun with little kids! For more information, e-mail peacebypeacejhu@hotmail.com or check out <http://www.peacebypeace.org>.

11:00 a.m. **Levering Matinee** is back again, this time with *The Road to Perdition*. The movie is showing at the Arellano Theater on the bottom floor of the Levering Hall. For more information contact Will Clemm at 410-516-8721.

11:30 a.m. There is a **Woodrow Wilson Poster Session** at the Glass pavilion until 2 p.m. Go see what the Woodrow Wilson Fellows have been up to for the past four years. You will find things from heart arrhythmias to feature length student made movies to ethnographic research on sex and gender. Come check out their final products to their research at the Woodrow Wilson Poster Session. Once you have walked through the posters, feel free to talk to the Woodrow Wilson fellows from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come! For more information, e-mail Suzy at bacon@jhu.edu.

12:00 p.m. It's the **APTT RELAXATION FAIR!** They are throwing their annual party on the MSE Beach this Friday! To celebrate the last day of classes, they're kicking off the summer by bringing in tons of games, food and more. There should be a giant inflatable MoonBounce along

with an inflatable Pedestal Joust. There will also be a lot of food like fresh cotton candy, popcorn and snow cone machines. All this and — get ready for the best part of all — there will be puppies and kittens to play with. Everything is free and it's all for you, so be sure to stop by the Beach after your last class of the semester and enjoy some serious relaxation! The best part of all has yet to be announced: you will not have to talk to anyone about how you're feeling in order to enjoy the Relaxation Fair! Go, play, relax and don't think about the fact that you will be showered with work as finals approach in the coming week!

5:00 p.m. **Gospel Choir** is having their rehearsal in the SDS Room of the Mattin Center. These rehearsals are weekly and run until 7 p.m. Contact Alley Allow at alleyway100@hotmail.com for more information. It doesn't matter if you can't sing, just go and have a good time!

5:00 p.m. Always wanted to take classes with a live model in the room? There is a **life drawing session** at the Mattin Center in room 208 in the F. Ross Jones Building. The class goes until 7 p.m., and while there is no formal class instruction, you will get great advice from devoted drawers. For more information, contact Clarence Lin at ClarenceLin@jhu.edu.

6:00 p.m. It's around 5:30 p.m. and all of your pledges, or your friends, are simply walking around, don't you wish there were something a little more exciting for them to participate in? Relay for Life! **The Hopkins Relay for Life** is going to be held from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. on the Upper Quad. The Relay for Life is an annual event run by the American Cancer Society that celebrates cancer survivors. The money that is raised goes toward cancer research. Participants register in teams that average around eight to ten people, but can be any size. There is a \$10 registration fee that includes a t-shirt. After that, participants are encouraged to raise as much as they can after that. Although the Relay is normally a 24 hour event, ours will only be eight hours long.

At least one person from each team should be walking/running at all times. Interested? Contact Vidya at srimaha@jhu.edu or call at (248) 894-8208.

7:30 p.m. You may have missed Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize winning and Tony Award winning play, **The Death of Salesman**, but you can still catch it tonight. The Johns Hopkins University Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater Company is bringing us *Death of Salesman* with a cast including Hopkins students such as Vlad Cadet and Tom West. The play will be showing in the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Center. It is directed by Benedict A. Dorsey and assistant directed by Kara Lawrence. Students must pay \$3 for entrance, and everyone else will be charged \$5. For more information, please call 410-516-5473.

8:00 p.m. What would Brian Boytano do if he were here today? Come on, that's such an obvious question. He would be at the **Mental Notes concert** waiting to listen for fun, exciting and unconventional songs music by the crazy and legendary Mental Notes! As usual, the concert is all the way out in the boon-docks at the Bloomberg Auditorium. The Mental Notes have invited two guest groups coming for Friday night, Penn Six and Dennison Hilltoppers. If you want to know more about the concert or just about the acapella group themselves, check out <http://www.mentalnotes.org>.

8:00 p.m. If you're not on campus and you really want to do something that involves music, go to the **PCO Concert at the Peabody Conservatory**. The concert features the Peabody Orchestra and guest conductor Edward Polochick. They will be playing Beethoven's "Overture to Prometheus," Richard Strauss's "Death and Transfiguration," and Mozart's "Mass in C Minor." Tickets for students are \$5 as long as you have your ID. The concert is at Friedberg Hall, 1 East Mount Vernon Place.

10:00 p.m. It's time for some free Krispy Kremes, coffee and doughnuts at the **Coffee Grounds**. The Coffee Grounds are held at the Mattin Center, where Silk Road is. You can e-mail coffeegrounds@jhu.edu.

CALENDAR

OFF CAMPUS

 8:00 p.m. The Royal Shakespeare Company presents William Shakespeare's **As You Like It**, a play about mistaken identity. The play will be showing until May 18 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., at 2700 F. St., N.W., Washington. Prices for tickets range from \$25 to \$70. For more information, call 202-467-4600.

Saturday, May 3

ON CAMPUS

HOMECOMING WEEKEND!!!

12:00 p.m. The first **WJHU Bash on the Beach** ever is happing, featuring live music. The music will be playing from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., before the lacrosse game, and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., after the lacrosse game. There will be people local talent and Hopkins talent playing. Bands playing include Cypher (a Baltimore metal band), Malvado (a Baltimore hard rock band), The Workshop (a Punk band), The Internet (an electrorock band) Smiling Politely (a Hopkins Rock band), Team Canada (a Hopkins Jazz Funk band), Rachel Stone (a Hopkins Fok/songwriter), Garfunkel (Hopkins Hip-Hop) and more! For more information, check out the WJHU Web site at <http://www.Hopkinsradio.com>, or just go and see what it's all about!

1:00 p.m. Tune into the JHU Hopkins Radio Station at <http://Hopkinsradio.com> to listen to the sensual voice of the devilishley handsome Maany Peyvan. He will be playing a variety of British and Idie-rock music, such as Doves, Travis, and The Stone Roses. If you can't catch him at 1 p.m., do not fret, since his show goes until 3 p.m. Don't miss out, you may not know what he looks like, but his voice will turn you on almost just as much.

3:00 p.m. Feeling a little deprived of Bobby Benson, Adam Doneger and Kyle Barrie? There is a men's lacrosse game versus Loyola at the lacrosse field for **Homecoming!** Not only do you have them men, but you even have the beer goggles! Does it get any better? For more information on the games or the players, go to <http://www.hopkinssports.com>.

7:00 p.m. **The Johns Hopkins Animation Club** is having another show-ing. They seem to believe you will see one of the greatest shows to come out of Japan. You should really go find out for yourself, especially if you are an anime-buff. The showings will be in Shaffer 3. You should go and see what they've got, or at least claim to have.

7:30 p.m. There is a movie showing in Remsen 101 called **Company**. This is a recent blockbuster which revolves around Bombay's under-world. *Company* was directed by Ram Gopal Verma, whose other claim to fame include *Satya* and *Rangeela*. If you haven't seen them, then do that as well! You don't even have to pay to sit and watch a movie that is only 155 minutes. While it is in Hindi, they supply some English subtitles for your convenience. It is starring Ajay Devgan and Vivek Oberoi. For more information, contact Shurabh at Saurabh@jhu.edu.

7:30 p.m. It's your last chance to catch Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize winning and Tony Award winning play, **The Death of Salesman**, has come to Hopkins. The Johns Hopkins University Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater Company is bringing us Death of Salesman with a cast including Hopkins students such as Vlad Cadet and Tom West. The play will be showing in the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Center. It is directed by Benedict A. Dorsey and assistant directed by Kara Lawrence. Students must pay \$3 for entrance, and everyone else will be charged \$5. For more information, call 410-516-5473.

OFF CAMPUS

The Maryland Film Festival is taking place at the Charles Theater, not so far from the Hopkins Campus. It

is the fifth annual festival. It includes a selection of documentary films, special guest hosts, such as Governor Robert Ehrlich, as well as question-and-answer sessions. Director Barry Levinson will be at the festival. One of the main highlights of the festival is *Baltimore*, a short film starring Melvin Van Peebles. Some of the other movies scheduled are *American Eunuchs (Who needs balls?)*, *The Black Pirate*, *Hypnotic*, *Dr. Sleep*, *King of Bluegrass*, *One Small Step: The story of the Space Chimps*, *Robot Stories* and *This is Duckpin Country*. Put down your work, take a break from studying, go down to the Charles Village Theater, grab some Tapas and catch a flick! An all access pass is a total of \$250. Students will pay \$8 a movie otherwise. For more information, call 410-727-3456 or check out <http://www.mdfilmfest.com>

Sunday, May 4

ON CAMPUS

2:00 p.m. Have friends who study at Peabody? Wish you did? There is a **Hopkins-Peabody Student Concert in the SDS Room** at the Mattin Center, so go see your friends or go meet some new people. Come to this concert Sunday afternoon to hear some Hopkins/Peabody students perform for free! E-mail Jason at jasonis@jhu.edu for more information.

7:00 p.m. Do you have a physics test coming up? Wondering how true it may be that maybe every action has an equal but opposite reaction? That information could be wrong, so you should go to the **Physics Help Room** in Bloomberg 274. If you need any more information, contact dangermouse@jhu.edu.

8:00 p.m. Remember how much fun Orientation was? Well, you can't have another orientation, but you can have another crazy night with your class at the **Freshman Formal!** There will be food, great music and good times! Grab your date and your dancing shoes and head over to the Glass Pavilion in Levering Hall for a night you'll never forget! E-mail socialboard06@yahoo.com for more information.

OFF CAMPUS

3:00 p.m. The Baltimore Theatre Project presents Air Dance Bernasconi. They are an aerial dance troupe that will be performing a combination of modern dance and low-flying trapeze, aerial fabric, hoops, bungee, rope and harness involved dancing. They will be performing three new dances, "Back Then and Now," "Harnessing the Ocean" and "Spinning Silk." They will also include some of their signature dances, "Echoing Pathways" and "Expanding Circumstances."

8:00 p.m. The University Christian Fellowship is having **"The Gathering,"** the Worship Service here at Johns Hopkins University. The worship service takes place at the University Baptist Church at 3501 N. Charles Street, across the street from AMR I.

12:00 p.m. **The Peace Corps and American Diplomacy** will be having a fair at UMBC in the Engineering Building. You can either go directly there, or wait for the shuttle to pick you up in front of the MSE library at 2:30 p.m. on the side of the beach. Jack Vaughn will be speaking at 4 p.m. He will be addressing the topic of "the Peace Corps and American Diplomacy." There will also be a reception at 5 p.m. For more information, go to <http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/2629/2012940.html>. If you are interested in going, RSVP as soon as possible to peacecorps@jhu.edu. If you go, you will have the great opportunity of meeting and speaking with Peace Corps volunteers and directions.

Monday, May 5

ON CAMPUS



12:00 p.m. *The Hopkins Undergraduate Research Journal* (HURJ) is accepting admissions for their 2003 Fall Issue. All you have to do is submit a reaserch summary or report of any kind. For more information, check out <http://www.jhu.edu/hurj>.

2:00 p.m. It's the **ULTIMATE STUDY BREAK!** There will be movies going on the etire time, ultimate games to be played, a mini fair going on until 6 p.m., Levering Live from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., massages from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. a buffet from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. as well, a Last Jam, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., and finally an Ultimate Contest to close it all up from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

5:00 p.m. There is a mandatory general meeting, information about programs within Community Services, Blood Services, Disaster Action, Health and Safety, and International Services will be discussed. Not to worry, there will also be awards and prizes! For more information, e-mail redcross@jhu.edu or check out <http://www.jhu.edu/redcross>.

OFF CAMPUS

Mozy on down to No Way Jose Cafe at 38 East Cross Street to celebrate **Cinco De Mayo** with some music, drink specials and a chance to win a trip to Mexico. Today is the last day of the three day party at No Way Jose Cafe. For more information call 410-752-2837.

6:00 p.m. The American Can Company celebrates **The Big Five**, their fifth anniversary and celebration of Cinco de Mayo down at 2400 Boston St. The Can will be hosting a festival with live music, giveaways, contests and more. Buckwheat Zydeco, The Players, Mambo Combo and Rob Fahey are all amongst the many scheduled to perform. It is free to go. For more information call 410-558-canc.

Tuesday, May 6

ON CAMPUS

7:00 p.m. It's getting to be that time of school where everyone is just itching to get out and go home. While you are still here taking care of school work and finals, you can try out the new **APTT TALKLINE**. Their extension is 6-8001. They recently re-opened the phone counseling service which allows students to confidentially speak with their trained peer counselors. Their goal is to provide support, referral, crisis intervention and general information to the student body in a safe and private environ-

EXPOSURE
 BY VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN

ment. They wish to offer an outlet for all students to express their thoughts and feelings in atmosphere of open-mindedness and acceptance. The Talk-line, as well as their peer counseling room in AMR I (across from the monitor's desk) are open from Sunday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to midnight. The number for the Talkline is ext. 6-8001 or 410-516-8001 for outside lines.

9:00 p.m. Attend the JHU Feminist Majority Weekly Meeting in the Wolman East Lounge. Learn the meaning of Feminism as you eat good food, meet great femmes and have great discussions. For more information, call Gillian Gower at 410-516-5745, e-mail femmajoirty@jhu.edu or check out <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jhuifemmajority>.

OFF CAMPUS

8:00 p.m. If you loved *Chicago* on the big screen, then you'll definitely love *Fosse* on the stage. The musical is basically just a highlight of the best works of the choreographer and dancer Bob Fosse. The show will include some of his best numbers, such as "Sweet Charity," "Chicago," "Dancin," "Cabaret" and "All that Jazz." Fosse will be showing at the Lyric Opera House at 140 West Mount Royal Ave. For tickets, call 410-481-SEAT. For more information, call 410-494-2712.

8:00 p.m. *The Full Monty* is being performed at The Mechanic Theater, located at 25 Hopkins Plaza. This time, *The Full Monty* is taking on Buffalo. Again the main characters are six unemployed steelworkers. They decide to put on a strip show to make some money and help a friend. Ticket prices vary from \$25 to \$72.50, they can be obtained at 410-481-SEAT.

8:00 p.m. Go see **The Fantasticks**, the longest running musical in the world, at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland College Park. The Fantasticks is about two people who fall in love and are teased by the excitement of the world around them. Eventually, as most love stories go, they find that everything they need is in the other. Prices range from \$16 to \$20. For more information, call 301-405-ARTS.

Wednesday, May 7

ON CAMPUS

1:00 a.m. You should still be up, and not because you just got back from PJ's or CVP or some other mysteri-

ous local bar. You would rather not go to bed yet, so you know what you should do? Listen in to the new Johns Hopkins University radio station, WJHU! There is a **sex line** going on as we speak. The entire station is run out of the internet, it is not going to be found on a dial. You can find the station at <http://Hopkinsradio.com>. Feel free to IM in some questions.

OFF CAMPUS

Visit **Jeannier's**, at 105 West 39 St. and see Charlene Rene Clark's paintings. They depict French Markets with vibrant colors. The exhibit is free for everyone to attend. For more information, call 410-467-2106.

NIGHTLIFE

CLUBS

9:30 Club, 815 V. St, NW, Washington, 202-393-0930
 Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Pl., 410-727-0468
 Bohagers, 701 S. Eden St., 410-563-7220
 Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, 202-667-7960
 Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., 410-522-0784
 Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., 410-332-4200
 Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., 410-276-9085
 DeGroen's Grill, 104 Albemarle St., 410-837-5000
 Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., 410-558-1889
 Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., 410-342-3239
 Harry's, 1200 N. Charles Street, 410-685-2828
 Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., 410-327-8111
 Latin Palace, 509 S. Broadway, 410-522-6700
 Lava Lounge, Pier Four, 410-539-7888
 Ottobar, 2549 N. Howard St., 410-662-0069
 Rec Room, 512 York Rd., 410-337-7178
 Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., 410-669-9500
 The Talking Head, 203 E. Davis St., 410-962-5588
 The Spot Nite Club, 2314 Boston St., 410-276-9556
 The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., 410-244-6000
 Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., 410-327-4886
 Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Av., 410-732-8656

COMEDY

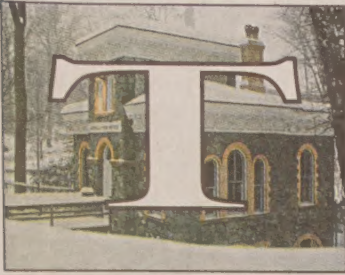
Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., 410-752-4189
 Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Rd., 410-665-8600
 Winchester's Comedy Club, 102 Water St., 410-576-8558

COFFEE

Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Road, 410-296-0791
 Cafe Tattoo, 4825 Belair Road, 410-325-7427
 Cuppa Cabana, 32nd and St. Paul Streets, 410-467-2200
 Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., 410-889-3410
 E Level, Levering Hall, JHU, 410-516-6219
 Fell's Point Cafe, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800
 Funk's Democratic Coffee Spot, 1818 Eastern Av., 410-276-3865
 Images Cafe, 3120 St. Paul St., 410-235-3054
 Margarets Cafe, 909 Fell St., 410-276-5606
 One World Cafe, 100 W. University Parkway, 410-235-5777
 XandO, 3003 N. Charles St., 410-889-7076
 Ze Mean Bean Cafe, 1739 Fleet St., 410-675-5999

THE BACKPAGE

Sponsored by Jason and Charles, who will be graduating this year. Thanks for all the memories, late night torture, fast food, checkage and lovin'. We won't know what to do with our Wednesday nights.



he 107th Volume of *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* would like to thank the following people and organizations for their indispensable help over the past year: Tristan Davies, Dr. Bill Smedick, Susan Boswell, Brenda Armour, Nancy Ryan, Greg Kane, Rob Hiaasen, Matt D'Agostino, Joanne Cavanaugh-Simpson, Maralee Schwartz, Dennis O'Shea, Rob, Corinne, Linda, Jim and the rest of the Southern Maryland crew, Pat Moran, Plant Ops for the turbo-charged carts, Student Press Law Center, Weslee Blakeslee, Ronald Mullen, Steve Ossmus, Dennis Roesmary, S, Shannon, Tom, Chris, Sarah, Amanda and every other editor who taught us how to do what we do, Digital Partners, True Color, Homewood Photography Services, Student Council, Deep Throat, The Board of Elections for providing us with endless editorial fodder, the WaWa brothers for their hot paddy wagon photo shoot, that cop from the September block party, the woman who kissed that cop, AP Newsfinder, U-Wire, Phyllis Berger, JHU Daily Jolt, John Cramp, Boone's Farm, Yuengling, Blue Moon Pale Ale, Coors Light, everyone who disregarded Spring Fair's instructions and bought beer from us anyway, ResNet, The Man with the Tan, Jack (as in) Lipkin, Graham Bouton, Lisa Meckley, Sheryl Kane, Weezer, Celebrity Justice, Popeye's, Strong Bad, Samuel L. Jackson, Niwana, Asian Taste, Domino's, Rocky Run, Alkulukuja Paskova Karhu, *The Hipster Handbook*, Apple Computer and of course, you the reader. Have a nice summer!



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

Some final thoughts as we move ahead to new adventures...

Team 2003: Graduating Seniors



"Mar'in"



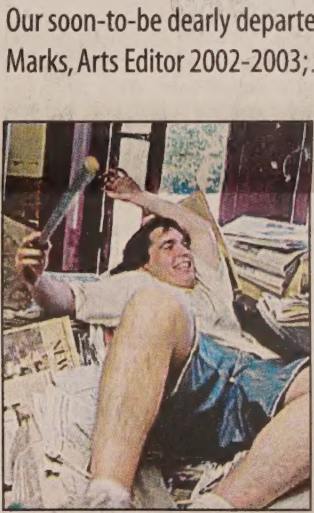
"J.Go"



"Turbo"



"The 'berg"



"Pinz"

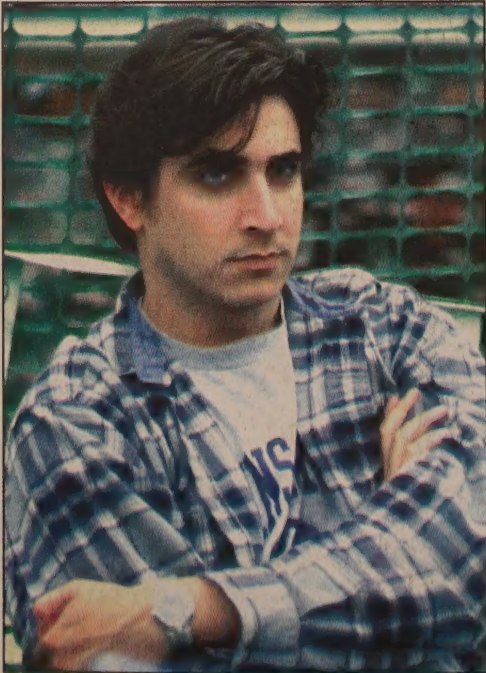
Our soon-to-be dearly departed, from left to right: Martin Marks, Arts Editor 2002-2003; Jason Gordon, Systems Manager 2000-2002, Managing Editor 2002-2003; Charles Donefer, News Editor 2000, Focus and Special Editions Editor 2000-2001, Managing Editor 2001-2003; Liz Steinberg, News Editor 2000-2001, Photo Editor 2001-2003; Andrew Pinzler, Electronic Edition Editor 1999-2003. We're gonna miss you guys.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Congratulations to the Volume CVIII Editorial Board

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The *News-Letter* would like to congratulate Jeremiah Crim and Mike Spector on a great year and wish them the best of luck in the future.



"Yeah, if you could stop [expletive deleted] the dog and un-fuxner that page, that would be great, yeah."



"Who's giving my editorial some sweet, sweet lov-ing? Guys?"